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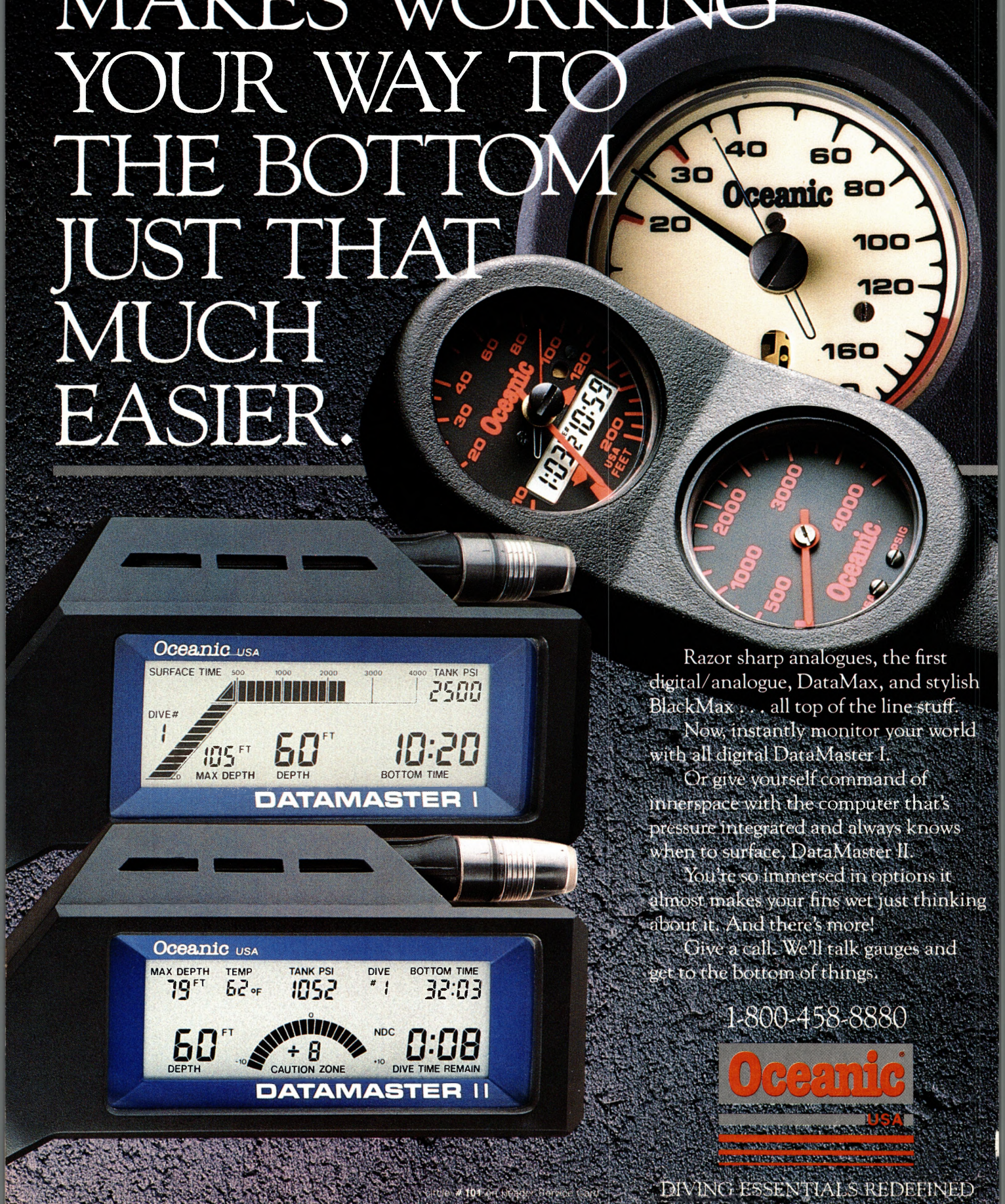


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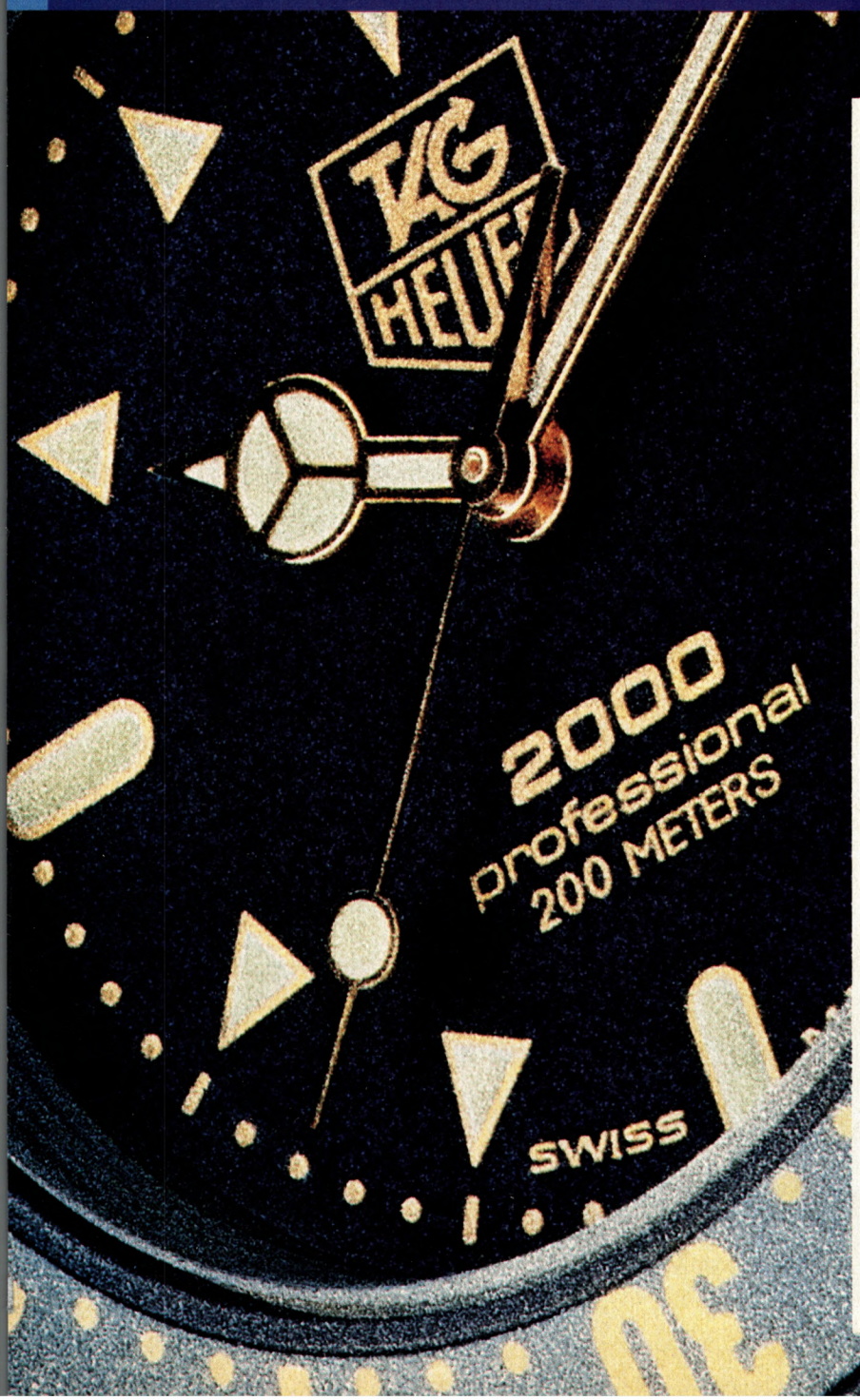
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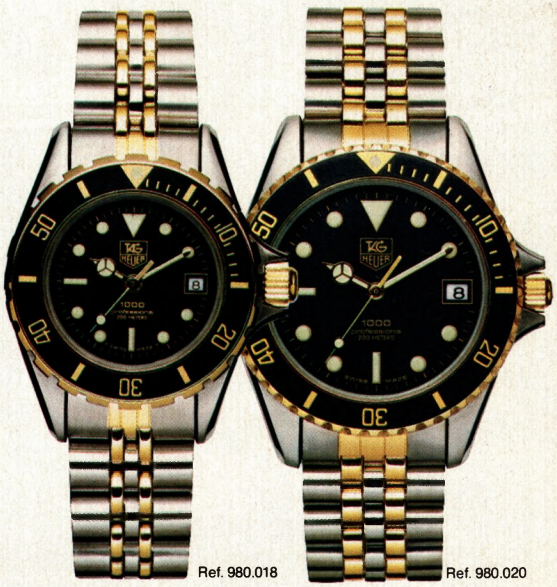


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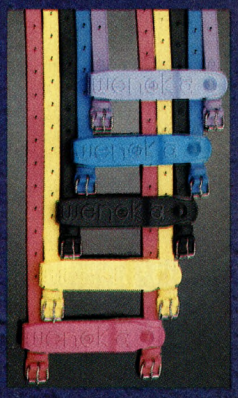
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The underwater environment is a world alive with unexpected and unparalelled beauty. Colors range from the delicate pastels to the bold and brazen hues of a New England Autumn. It's only natural that divers visiting these fluid art galleries want to blend in with the habitat. Wenoka SeaStyle offers a new choice of colors for '87 that will help keep you inconspicuous in your very chromatic surroundings.



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skin diver
Volume Thirty-six Number Eight

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COVER

Barbara Doernbach, co-leader of the Stephen Frink Photo Tour to Truk Lagoon, Micronesia, discovers a stately lionfish on the stern of the Fujikawa Maru, *a WW II shipwreck sunk in the lagoon. Photo/Geri Murphy.*

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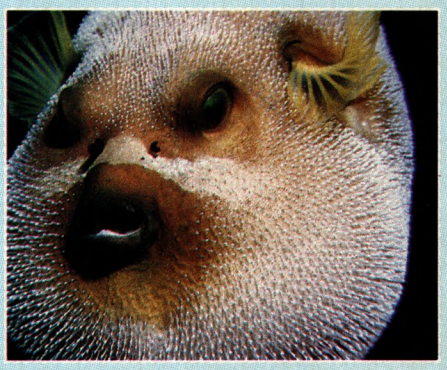
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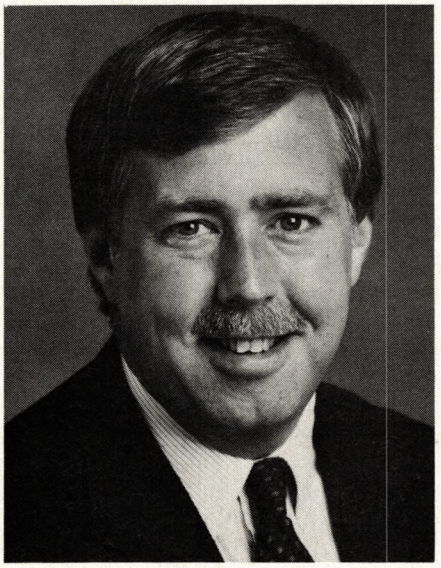
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SDM Editorial

BY BILL GLEASON

WHERE IS THE BEST DIVING IN THE WORLD?



Is it East or West? Domestic and overseas dive travel is booming! More and more people are traveling each year to seek out new experiences, forever in search of the best diving in the world!

With the deregulation of airline fares, the menu of the restaurant called "Best Diving in the World" has tripled in the last few years. Is it Caribbean or Pacific? Low fares and travel packages to the Pacific have brought this exotic destination within reach of the average understuffed wallet! The Caribbean continues to provide both first time and veteran visitors with exciting diving, putting them in the thick of the discussion of what's "best."

So, just where is the best diving in the world? Although many people ask me this question as I travel the world each year, I don't think I have ever answered it successfully. Having failed at this hundreds of times, I don't really think I'll ever have that one correct answer. SKIN DIVER probably won't ever be able to answer it either.

Just this month, for example, we offer divers ten different choices, all of which, by some criteria, could be considered the best diving in the world. On two sides of the U.S., we look at resorts in Florida and Hawaii. Ranging afar, Australia, Fiji, the Philippines and live-aboard diving in Truk Lagoon are all examined. Closer to home, Grand Cayman, Bonaire, Grand Turk (soon to be a hot destination) and Loreto, in the Sea of Cortez, are all served up for your inspection.

Americans have always been obsessed with the best. We demand it of our amateur and professional athletes and stage elaborate sporting events to determine who is best. Drop into the corner bar and casually ask, "What's the best restaurant in town?" It's an innocent enough question. But, after at least one-half hour of conversation, you still don't know where to eat! Ask, "What's the best exercise?" at your health club and you could work out for an entire month doing all the various exercises suggested at no charge by friends and well-wishers.

What's this paradox mean to divers? Diving is a non-competitive pastime, so we don't normally—outside of spearfishing or underwater photography (such as the Nikonos Shootout)—hold contests to determine who's the best. And, these contests, exciting as they are, only tell us *who* is best, not *where* the best diving is.

So, anyone venturing an answer to "Where's the best diving in the world?" should be prepared to vigorously defend it. Here's the crux of this dilemma. The best diving in the world is not an objective observation, but a subjective one. A far better question is, "Where is the best diving in the world for me?" That takes into consideration all of the subjective factors such as age, experience and personal preference. If you're busy looking for whales in a place well known for macro critters you will not return home smiling and relaxed.

"Going with the flow," as they say, is the key to successful diving, and by doing a little self analysis on your part, you'll get a lot closer to your choice for the best diving in the world. The important criteria in choosing the best possible dive vacation include:

1.) Experience and ability: Have you made ten dives or 1,000? Do you like guided dives or do you prefer to explore by yourself? Can you handle currents or do you prefer the "bathtub" diving approach? There's merit in all these choices and there's help before you travel. SDM's advanced diving reviews are geared to experienced divers and more and more general dive resorts are offering special programs.

2.) Creatures, big or small: When you go looking for the big stuff—whales, dolphins, sharks—be prepared to sacrifice a little in terms of visibility. Big guys need more food and that usually means more plankton in the water!

3.) Photographer/non-photographer: Some of the most boring dives of all time, regardless of destination, are made by teaming these two types of divers up. Unless your buddy and you have compatible diving styles (you both like to cruise or you both like to poke around), neither one of you will have a good time.

4.) Weather/seasonality: Don't kid yourself into thinking your vacation week will be the one dry spell during the three month rainy season. They call it the rainy season for a definite reason. Plan ahead!

SKIN DIVER will advise you on weather conditions, resort status, the dive guide situation and boats. We'll describe the critters—large and/or small—and let you know what the average visibility is. We'll also let you know about an area's suitability for U/W photographers. If that's not enough to help you to figure out where your personal best diving is, analyze your diving dreams and contact the resorts themselves. Describe the kind of diver you are and ask what types of dives are there for you to enjoy. More than any other recreation, our resorts usually feature toll free numbers that allow you to get more information. By and large, they want you to say your best diving was done at their resort.

And, just so no one can say I didn't try, here are a few of my personal best:

Best marine life: The humpback whales in Hawaii; schooling hammerheads and giant mantas in Baja, California; 25 eagle rays in Belize; and an octopus laying eggs in the Bahamas.

Best walls: Hanging off any of the vertical walls in Cayman, the Bahamas, Cozumel, Bay Islands, Fiji and the Coral Sea—then arguing about which was best.

Best little critters: The town piers in Bonaire and St. Croix and marine life throughout the Philippines.

Best wreck diving: Truk Lagoon and Florida, the East Coast from North Carolina to Maine, and the Great Lakes.

Best local diving: Kelp forests in California, the colder waters of Puget Sound and the Gulf of Maine.

Best diving experiences: First 15 pound lobster off the New Jersey coast, then the first big one in California; my first photo dive in clear water (1971); and, in general, the first (i.e. first ice dive) anything in my personal diving experience.

I'm still, of course, working on my list and hope to run into you sometime while you're working on yours. Maybe we can compare notes and determine, once and for all, where the best diving in the world is!

NEW FOR 1987

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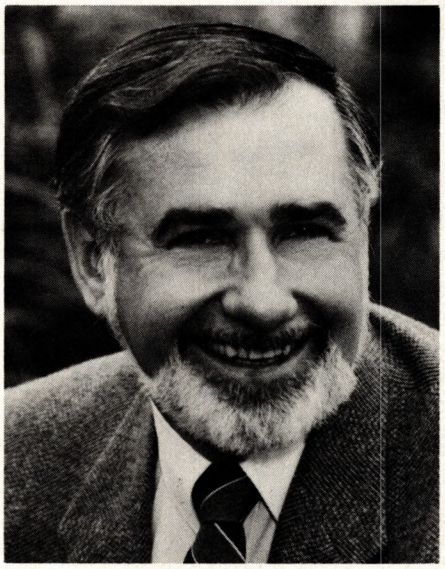
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SDM Editorial

BY PAUL J. TZIMOULIS

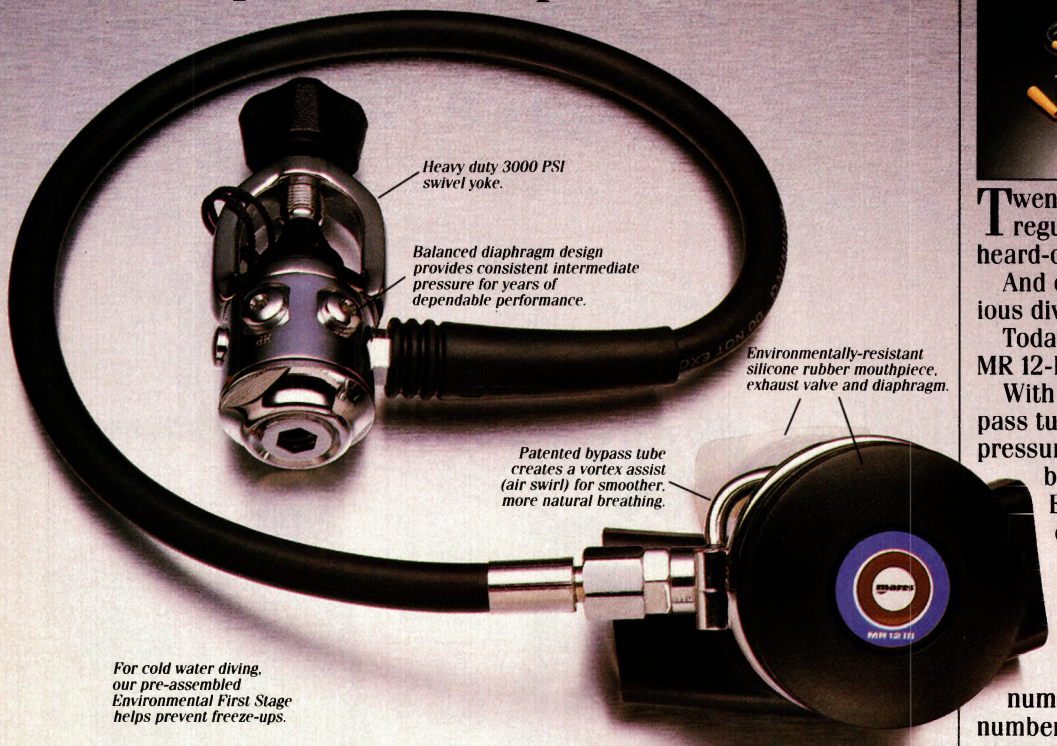
BATTLE OF THE CONSOLES— THE WAR IS ON!



The war is on and it is a dilly! Never before in diving history has there been such a technological battle over product development. The year 1987 has witnessed a veritable avalanche of new and exciting dive instruments. More than 20 American companies are offering close to 50 different instrument consoles.

We are faced with a dazzling array of designs and colors, with a mind-boggling menu of functions. For the first time, we are seeing an en masse invasion of creative analog designs, digital readouts and even self-contained dive computers. This amazing boom in diver instrumentation is caused by a number of key factors, including much improved manufacturing procedures, lowered computer chip costs, stepped up development programs and increased competition among diving companies. The end result is a Star Wars race under the sea! While all of this new technology may be exciting to more advanced divers, it is also very confusing to most new divers. The questions are predictable: "Which is better?"; "Should I buy a computer?"; "Is analog obsolete?"; and so on. Some of this stuff is so new it is not even shown in current

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Today the new generation Mares MR 12-III rules the seas.

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scuba instruction manuals. Many instructors have not yet had an opportunity to use the new dive computers and digital consoles and are therefore reluctant to recommend them. It is understandable. Yet, time waits for no one—especially when dive companies are in a headlong race for their share of the market.

But let's get back to the poor consumer. How does the new diver figure out what product does what? How does one separate sales claims from scuba facts and choose the right product to do the job? In order to intelligently discuss 1987 instrument consoles, first we have to establish basic definitions and functions:

Depth Gauge—An instrument that tells you how deep you are. Some models offer the additional feature of a maximum depth indicator that tells you the deepest you've gone during the dive.

Submersible Pressure Gauge—An instrument that tells you the air pressure (psi) in your scuba tank. This device is usually attached to the scuba regulator by a high pressure hose.

Dive Timer—An instrument that automatically counts the number of minutes spent underwater during the dive. The same instrument may also count the number of minutes spent topside, between dives. Some timers also count the number of dives made during the day.

Temperature Gauge—An instrument that measures the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit while U/W. Some models will also show air temperature.

Compass—An instrument that allows accurate U/W navigation. It is used by divers to find their way back to the boat or place of entry on the shore.

Console—A device that contains two or more of the above described instruments. Consoles are usually attached to the scuba regulator via a high pressure hose since one of the basic console instruments is usually the submersible pressure gauge.

Now that we understand the basic instruments that may be in a console, let us review the four basic types of consoles promoted in today's marketplace:

1) Analog Console—The analog console contains instruments with the traditional circular dial face and needle. They are sturdy, reliable and easy to read with a glance. Although this is the most traditional style of console, there are a surprising number of innovations this year, including glow-face dials, double-face dials and stylish colors to coordinate with BCs, wetsuits, etc.

2) Digital/Analog Console—This is a fairly new family of consoles, having been around only two to three years. In this type of console, some of the instruments are analog while others are digital. The most common digital instrument is one that shows bottom time, surface time and number of dives. Some of the newer digital/analog consoles feature digital depth gauges as well.

3) All Digital Console—The all digital console is a brand new design. At present, there are only three companies promoting this concept. This console provides a high-tech digital readout for tank pressure, depth, bottom time and temperature. The LCD screen is often enhanced by imaginative graphics.

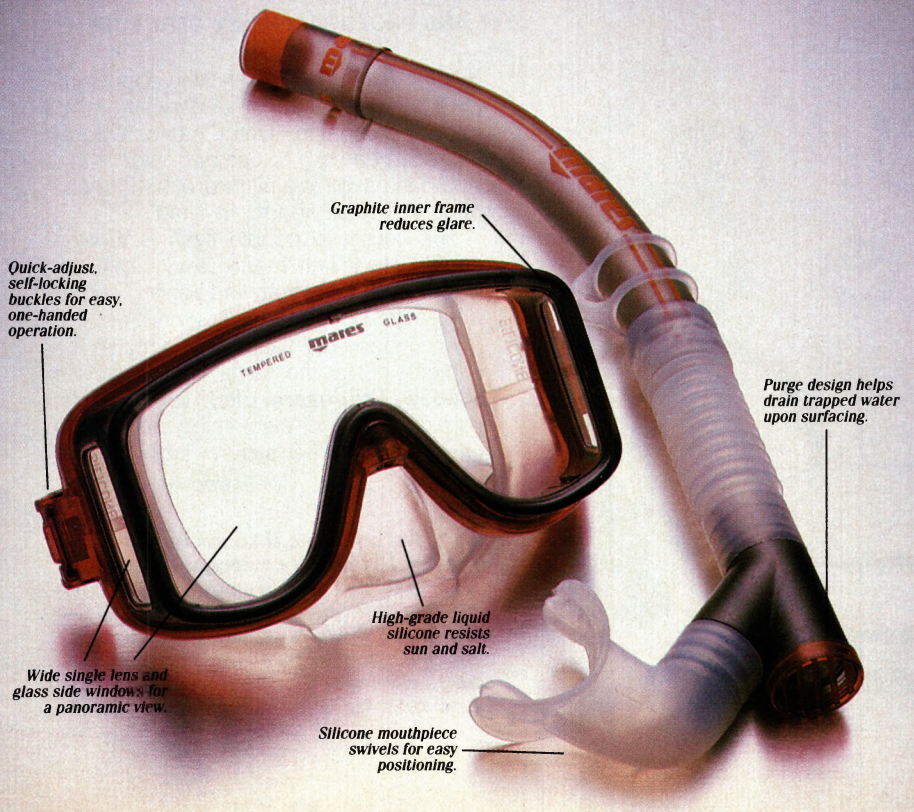
4) Dive Computer Console—The dive computer console is another brand new design. It incorporates all of the instruments described so far, plus a computer that may contain the entire no-decompression and decompression tables in its memory. The computer may help you do pre-dive planning, tell you how much time is left before decompression is needed and how to decompress if necessary.

There are a variety of approaches to the dive computer console. Some are all digital while others are a combination analog/digital. And, some are modular, meaning the dive computer can be removed from the console and worn on the wrist if desired.

While the above are the four basic types of consoles, each manufacturer has added its own distinctive designs and features to woo the consumer. How do you choose which console is best? The

(Continued on Page 102)

Mares.
Changing the face of diving.





The way we see it, a smart-looking mask isn't worth much if it's not smartly crafted.

So while Mares masks look great on the outside, they're even more beautiful when you look under the surface.

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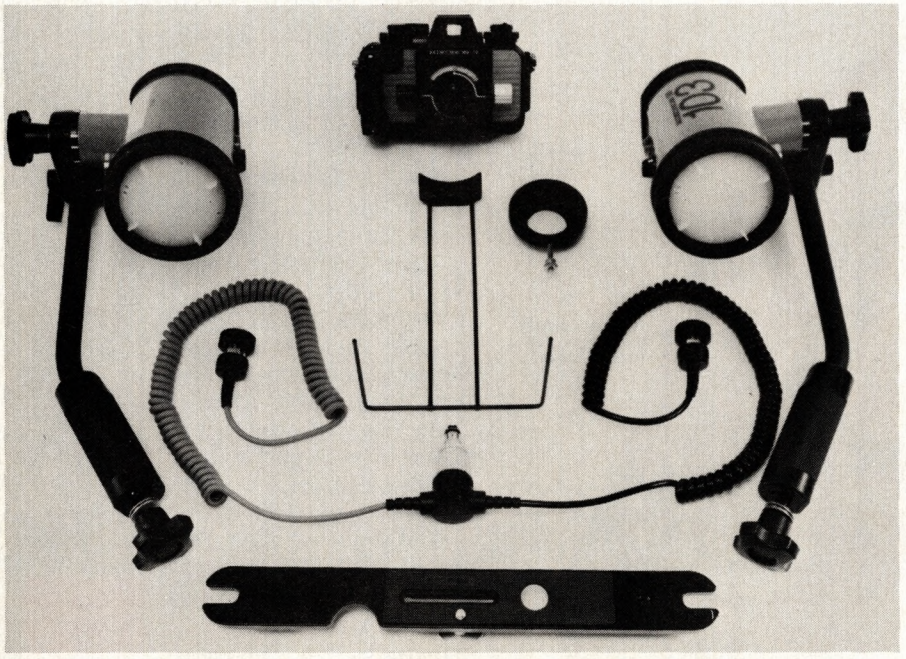
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Using Twin SB103s

SOUP UP YOUR SHOTS WITH MULTIPLE FLASH

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY



When the pros start talking about multiple flash, most underwater photographers panic. Don't panic. Double flash can be easy to use and a lot of fun. And, the payoff is a picture with more color, more detail and more snap.

The secret to double flash is to start small. Start with macro and close-up, where flash distances and lighting angles are easy to control.

An underwater flash casts light on the subject, but at the same time it casts a shadow. The shadow often works against you, darkening or blackening a portion of an otherwise great picture. Light coming

(Continued on Page 15)

Left: The complete Nikonos double flash system: Nikonos V camera, macro extension tube and wire framer, twin SB-103 strobes with Wide-Flash Adapters, Double Sync Cord and Nikonos Double Bracket. Double flash increases f/stop, helps eliminate shadows, makes the picture brighter and reveals more detail.

The adventure of diving. Capture it and share it.



Tools for the adventure.



that will be perfect for enlarging and framing.

Macro Photography. Your exploration reveals that the most colorful and intriguing life on the reef are the tiny animals that live among the tentacles of anemones and crevices of corals. There is no need to be frustrated by the smallness of these potential subjects. Even they are capable of being photographed if you employ the right tools. The Nikonos-V System can be used with extension tubes for exciting macro photographic reproductions up to twice life size. Nikonos TTL Speedlights take the exposure guesswork out of macro photography. Simply frame your subject and shoot. These incredibly bizarre details are all captured in sharp, colorful renditions—producing a favorite topic of conversation with friends.





Nikonos Technique Magazine

Of course underwater photography is a subjective art form that is based on technical skills. You will want to expand your knowledge and improve your skills. Nikon introduces NIKONOS TECHNIQUE magazine—an educational publication for underwater photographers of all skill levels and authored by the best professional underwater photographers in the world. See the exciting world beneath the sea through the lenses of these great pros and find out how they capture their results. Look for Nikonos Technique magazine at your Nikon dealer.



Nikonos-V: Above and below the surface. The Nikonos-V is a camera that can be used topside as well—365 days a year. Because it is rugged, waterproof, and automatic, it is the perfect camera for boating, skiing, rafting or at the beach.

Capture the adventure. Now that you know what tools you need to capture the adventure and excitement of diving, see your Nikonos dealer for help in getting you started in underwater photography now. Soon your images will be decorating the walls of your home or office. Your friends will be able to share in the adventure with you and will be intrigued and impressed with your new skills.

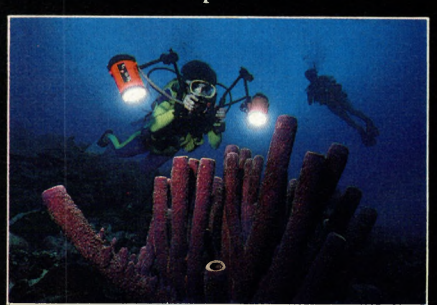
Be sure to ask your Nikonos dealer to tell you about the special free offer when you buy a Nikonos-V. Turn the page for more information.

The Nikonos-V system.

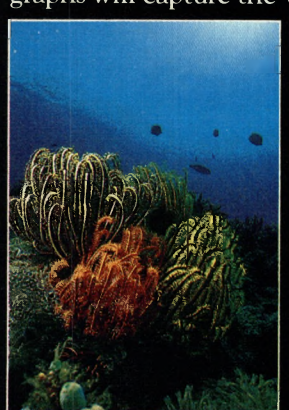
The Adventure of Diving.

It's a story about new discoveries. As you slip beneath the water's surface, you instantly realize that you have entered a world that defies description. Exploration reveals hundreds of new discoveries that evoke a feeling of appreciation for the natural beauty around you. Only photographs can convey your exhilaration to friends back home. Whether you are a novice or an advanced diver you won't want to miss any of the incredible details of a coral reef. You will want the best camera system in the world for this job.

Nikonos-V—advanced electronic technology in an easy to use system. Automatic TTL (Through The Lens) flash exposure control for fast, accurate results; manual shutter speeds for creative control; large, bright viewfinder with LED exposure information and the most accurate light meter ever in an underwater camera make taking pictures easy and rewarding.



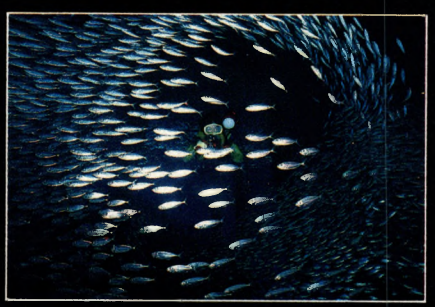
The colors are incredible. There are simply no names for some of these shades. You wonder if your photographs will capture the vivid red corals and purple sponges or the subtle markings of the multi-hued fish. You need an underwater flash—one that will record the natural tones of these spectacular colors at the proper exposure and give you even lighting coverage over the entire frame.



Nikonos SB-102 & SB-103 Speedlights. Revolutionary TTL auto flash exposure control, plus three manual power settings. The Nikonos-V reads the light that actually strikes the film and shuts off the Speedlight at the moment of precise exposure. A compact, and accurate exposure system that makes taking colorful underwater pictures easy—even for novices.

Descending farther you swim through a garden of soft corals. Striped Grunts and silver Jacks, numbering in the hundreds, appear from nowhere and seem to dominate the reef. You need special tools for capturing these images on film with all their impact.

Nikonos Accessory Lens System. All optically corrected for underwater use. Legendary sharp Nikon optics assure the best results and enhance all the fine details in the photograph. 28mm lens with 59° coverage; 20mm lens with 78° coverage; 15mm lens with 94° coverage provide medium wide angle to ultra wide angle panoramic views. The Nikonos lens system is the essence of personal expression underwater.



Nikonos Close-Up Outfit. Your eye catches an unusually beautiful French Angel fish. Carefully, you move in without alarming your subject, taking several shots as you go. You snap on the Nikonos close-up outfit and with some patience you finally coax the fish to swim into focus. You have shot your first fish portrait. Nikonos close-up-outfit—1:6, 1:4.5, 1:2.2 reproduction ratios with the 28mm, 35mm, or 80mm lenses. Striking images



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Twin SB103s

(Continued from Page 10)

from two different directions can help eliminate unwanted shadows. The picture appears brighter and reveals more detail. A second flash can also put a lot more snap in your pictures by allowing you to use back lighting, side lighting and rim lighting angles.

Double flash doubles your lighting power. This can result in a full f/stop increase in exposure values. This is ideal for macro and close-up, as it allows you to use twin SB-103s at the optimum macro exposure settings.

Macro photography is best accomplished with ASA/ISO 50 or 64 color slide films, such as Fujichrome 50, Ektachrome 64 or Kodachrome 64. These are ultra-fine grain films with rich color saturation. Macro photos taken with these films sparkle.

The optimum f/stop setting for macro is f/22. This aperture offers the maximum depth of field, needed when using macro extension tubes. The tubes drastically reduce the lens' normal depth of field. With twin SB-103 Nikonos strobes, you can use ASA/ISO 50 or 64 film and still have enough light to preserve the f/22 aperture setting.

The following is a suggested guide for strobe distances using two SB-103 strobes at the same time.

TWIN SB-103 FLASH DISTANCES
(with ASA 50 or 64 film / f/22 aperture)

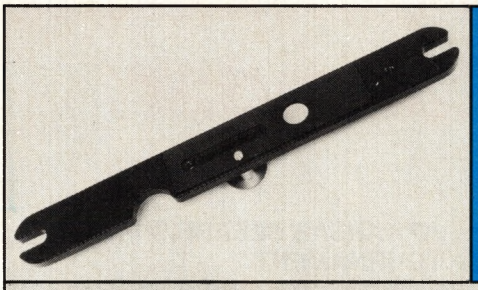
Close-up kit	12 inches
1:3 extension tube	8 inches
1:2 extension tube	5 inches
1:1 extension tube	3.5 inches
2:1 extension tube	2 inches

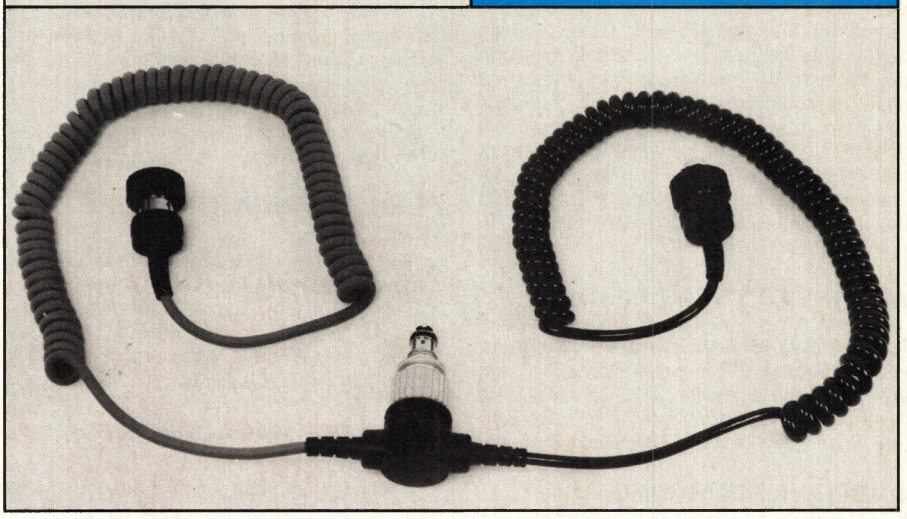
The above distances are figured on the basis of using twin SB-103 strobes with their Wide-Flash Adapters. These diffusers produce a warmer, softer lighting that is pleasing to the eye. The settings are slightly on the hot side (one-half f/stop overexposure) to ensure proper functioning of the TTL auto exposure system on the Nikonos V.

It is also important to note the table is only a basis from which to start. Exposures will vary depending on the clarity of the water and the reflectivity of the subject being photographed. If shooting on manual exposure mode (full power), you can bracket your exposures by moving the flash head back one to two inches from the subject.

NIKONOS SB-103

The Nikonos SB-103 is a perfect match for the Nikonos V camera. It was specifically designed for the job. Here are the basic specs:





Left: The Nikonos Double Bracket allows the photographer to attach two strobes to the Nikonos camera. In this way both strobes can be fixed for specific lighting angles. Below: The Double Sync Cord allows both strobes to be fired simultaneously. It also allows you to shut one off. It works with SB-103 or SB-102 strobes.

SB-103 SPEEDLIGHT

Power source	4 AA alkaline cells or nickel-cadmium rechargeables
Power modes	Full, ¼, 1/16
Number of flashes	130/alkaline cells 50/rechargeable cells
Recycle time	9 secs./alkalines 6 secs./rechargeables
Ready light	Red, large with magnifier
Angle of coverage	79 degrees/alone 94 degrees/with Wide-Flash
Reflector accessory	Wide-Flash Adapter SW-103 with quick bayonet mount
Flash tube	Circular
Color temperature	5,200°K/alone 4,700°K/with Wide-Flash
Flash modes	1) TTL auto 2) Full power manual 3) ¼ power manual 4) 1/16 power manual
Focus light	None
Sync cord	Detachable/coil type
Sync cord types	TTL/manual single TTL/manual double
Slave mode	None
Depth rating	160 feet
Weight	In air/3.6 pounds In water/2 ounces
Flash arms	1) Standard 2) Standard with extension 3) Double

It should be noted the SB-103 works flawlessly in the TTL automatic exposure mode. It also offers the versatility of three different power modes: full power, ¼ power and 1/16 power. Each power mode is two full f/stops less than the next. With this flexibility, you can vary the lighting ratios between the two strobes. One can be set at full power while the other is on ¼ power for subtle shadows.

Still another control option of the SB-103 is the wide angle diffuser. This not only spreads the lighting angle, it also warms up the color temperature by 500 degrees Kelvin. The light output jumps from 5,200°K to 4,700°K. Snapping on the SB-103 diffuser will noticeably warm up the picture, bringing out the reds, oranges and yellows. The diffuser also reduces the output by one f/stop.

Between the flash modes and Wide-Flash diffuser, the SB-103 offers six f/stops for the same given distance:

SB-103 F/STOPS
(with ASA/ISO 100 film–in air)

12" Full power alone	f/45
12" Full power/Wide-Flash	f/32
12" ¼ power alone	f/22
12" ¼ power/Wide-Flash	f/16
12" 1/16 power alone	f/11
12" 1/16 power/Wide-Flash	f/8

One unique aspect of the SB-103 is that Nikon produces a double sync cord that allows two SB-103s to be operated in either TTL auto mode or manual flash mode. A double sync cord is much more reliable and consistent than the "hit and miss" performance of slave sync. Slave sync will often miss its cue in high level ambient light conditions or when the slave strobe is pointed at an oblique angle to the primary strobe.

(Continued on Page 40)

Diver's Calendar

PACIFIC OCEAN GAMES

The Kingfish, Inc. and Los Angeles County Underwater Instructor's Association continue to host the first annual Pacific Ocean Games during **July-August** at various dive stores in the Southern California area. The games are a series of skin and scuba trials, with the funds raised to benefit the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Divers will compete for prizes including dive equipment and travel.

For information contact Kingfish, Inc., 2305 Pullman Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278; (213) 374-1990.

ARKANSAS TREASURE DIVE

The third annual Ozark Dive Company Treasure Dive will be held at Lake Norfork, Arkansas **August 1**. Pre-registration is $10—on the day of the event it's $13. Contact Ozark Dive Company (314) 785-6772 or Lake Norfork Scuba Center (501) 488-5144.

UNDERWATER RODEO

WWL News Radio will host a fishing rodeo **August 1-2**. In the spearfishing division, divers will compete for awards, including trophies and a plaque. For more information contact Brad Waldo, 1024 North Rampart, New Orleans, LA 70116; (504) 529-6228. For dive charters contact Dennis Sandras, P.O. Box 2018 Galliano, LA 70354; (504) 798-7609.

EXPEDITION AQUA-WOMAN

Long Island Divers Association will sponsor its seventh annual Expedition Aqua-Woman out of Freeport, Long Island **August 2**. Aboard the *Eagle's Nest*, 25 female divers will explore the wreck of the USS *San Diego*. For information contact Karen Gurian, Long Island Divers Association, P.O. Box 7304, Hicksville, NY 11801; (516) 798-1726 after 5:00 pm.

PACIFIC COAST UNDERWATER PHOTO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ninth annual Pacific Coast Underwater Photographic Championships, sponsored by Fuji Photo Film, will be held at Kellogg Park, La Jolla Shores, San Diego, California **August 8-9**. The $30 entry fee includes one roll of film, which is exposed on Saturday, developed and returned early that evening at a contestant's party. Participants choose their entries and turn them in. On Sunday, at Sumner Auditorium, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the winners will be announced and prizes awarded to them. For information contact Robert Melendez, c/o San Diego Council of Divers, P.O. Box 9259, San Diego, CA 92109 or call (619) 566-0752.

GEORGIA TREASURE HUNT

Atlanta, Georgia area dive shops are sponsoring an underwater treasure hunt **August 9** for the benefit of the Save the Manatee Society. In addition to the treasure hunt, there will be onshore activities, watersports, exhibits and seminars. For information contact Save the Manatee Benefit, P.O. Box 76105, Atlanta, Georgia 30358.

ARKANSAS SPEARFISHING TOURNAMENT

The first annual Lake Norfork Spearfishing Tournament will be held at Lake Norfork, Arkansas **August 15**. Pre-registration is $10—on the day of the event it's $13. For information contact Ozark Dive Company (314) 785-6772 or Lake Norfork Scuba Center (501) 488-5144.

PENNSYLVANIA TREASURE HUNT

The third annual underwater treasure hunt to benefit the Divers Alert Network will be held at Dutch Springs Quarry, Pennsylvania **August 16**. For information contact Robert J. Burns, 2200 Bristol Road, Warrington, PA 18976; (215) 343-6970.

ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT COURSE

A course on emergency management of diving accidents and hyperbaric chamber operations will be held **August 24-28** at the Catalina Marine Science Center on Catalina Island, California. Such topics as recognition and assessment of decompression sickness and air embolism, patient handling, helicopter rescue and chamber treatments will be covered. The University of Southern California will award continuing education credits to those completing the course. For information contact Catalina Marine Science Center, P.O. Box 398, Avalon, California 90704.

RIVER RESCUE COURSE

The International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists will host a river rescue course in Montgomery County, Maryland **August 28-30**. It will include classroom and in-water practical skills. For information call Carl Mauney at the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department (301) 253-3988 (work); (301) 770-7015 or 770-4156 (home).

COLORADO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Colorado Diving council will host its 30th annual Skin and Scuba Diving Championships at Grand Lake, Colorado **August 29-30**. Events include a treasure scramble, obstacle course and underwater swim (all for skin and scuba divers) as well as underwater dexterity, navigation, buddy assistance simulation and equipment donning contests (for scuba divers only).

For information contact Elizabeth Dunbar, 1029 South Alkire, Lakewood, CO 80228; (303) 988-2384 or Linda Imler, 16506 East Stanford Place, Aurora, CO 80015; (303) 680-9785.

DIVERS SWAP MEET

The Santa Ana College Dive Club will host its eighth annual Divers Swap Meet **August 30** at Rancho Santiago Community College, Santa Ana, California. For information contact Jim Taylor, 3105 South Deegan Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92704.

skin diver

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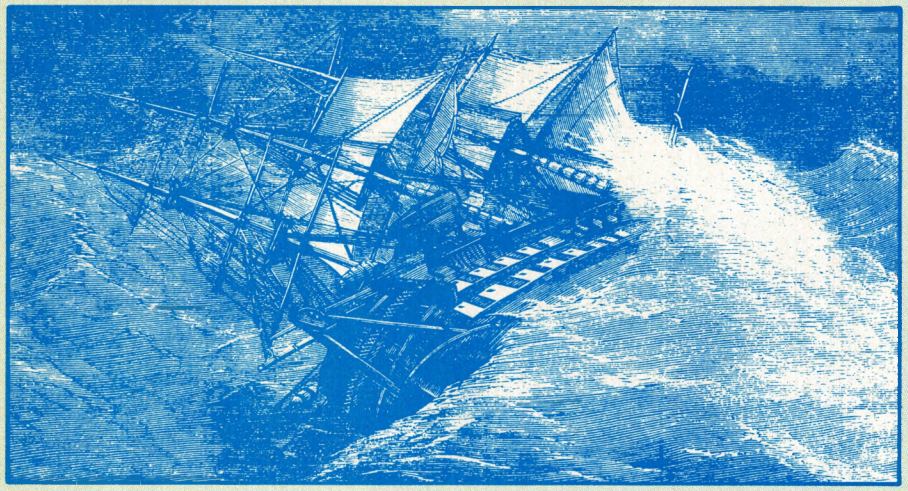


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Wreck Facts

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

Shipwreck Legislation THE BIG SCAM

At the end of the 1941 thriller, *The Maltese Falcon*, Ward Bond picks up a black enamel statuette of a bird.

"It's heavy. What is it?" Bond asks Humphrey Bogart. Bogie, portraying Sam Spade, the original icewater detective, turns the whole strange case over in his mind. The falcon has cost three men their lives. It will change the lives of four others. The black bird's secret is that it is supposed to be stuffed with jewels worth a fortune. But, in the end, the bird turns out to be a fake.

So Bogie, in his inimitable wry style, answers by paraphrasing Shakespeare: "The stuff that dreams are made of."

For thousands of us, searching for sunken treasure, retrieving a piece of brass, or just exploring a shipwreck is "the stuff that dreams are made of." But our dreams are turning into nightmares as passage of the treacherous Abandoned Shipwreck Act, S-858, comes closer to reality. I urge divers to act immediately to try and defeat it. Introduced by Senator Bill Bradley from New Jersey (New Jersey wreck divers take note), the bill is a continuation of the one we have defeated eight straight years in the House and Senate.

Those pampered, self-indulged, well cushioned refugees from the "hard life" of politics just can't get it through their thick skulls that their Abandoned Shipwreck Act has been deep-sixed. It is an act on a stage of deceit. It's an act in an ongoing play that closed after the curtain fell at the first performance in 1979. Although the actors still perform, the audience left the theater years ago. As critic Rex Reed might say: "The plot and cast of characters are just plain stinko!"

Nevertheless, the sky could fall in on all of us because the boys from Capitol Hill keep coming back. And, like Chicken Little, I'm having a hard time convincing some people to sit up and take notice. Bureaucrats are hurling buzz words at us such as protection, preservation and management; creating a smoke screen that clouds major issues.

If passed, S-858 would become a federal law that asserts ownership over abandoned shipwrecks and then simply transfers that ownership to the states! Recreational divers are justifiably suspicious of wholesale state ownership of shipwrecks. How would you like it if your state declared a sunken World War II tanker or freighter "historic?" It could happen. How would you like it if you had to apply for a permit to dive your favorite wreck? Licenses, fees and restrictions would be the offspring of S-858. We would be locked out of our own oceans, lakes and waterways.

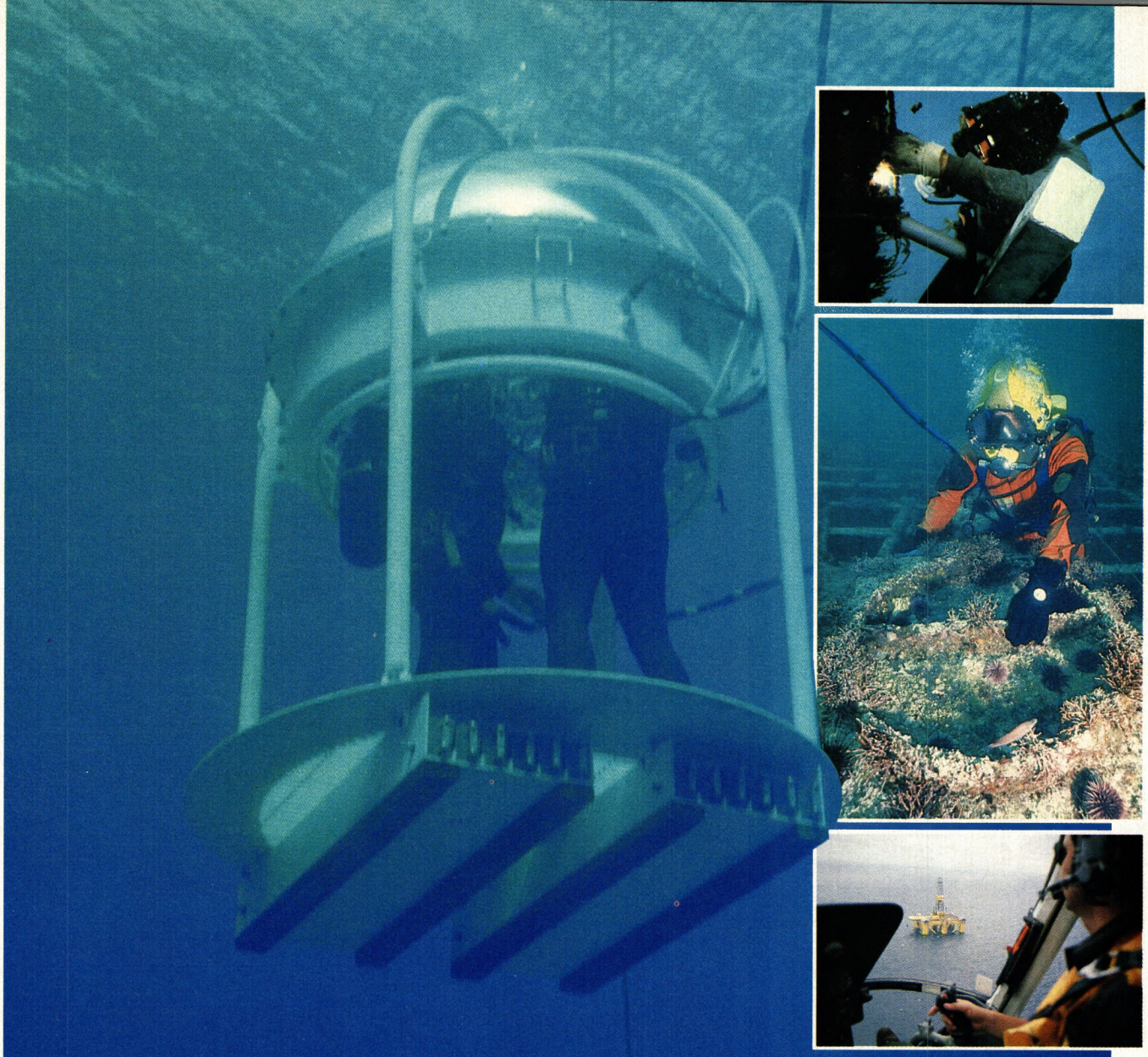
Coincidentally, S-858 abolishes federal admiralty jurisdiction over claims for salvage rights to certain wrecks. Admiralty Law is what enabled Mel Fisher to win his case against Florida. State officials seized his treasure and kept it for seven years until he won it back through Admiralty Law in the Supreme Court. (See Wreck Facts, March 1987.) There must be continued recourse for sport divers and salvors to go to federal court for adjudication. Trying to resolve such matters would be a joke in most state courts.

Some state and federal bureaucrats, plus a handful of academics, admit they don't want divers diving on *any* shipwrecks. The real issue here is that the "mystery" of marine archaeology is not a mystery at all. Anybody can conduct underwater archaeology. The Atlantic Alliance for Maritime Heritage Conservation has proven this, conducting workshops throughout the U.S. in survey, recovery and preservation techniques of shipwrecks. The joy of this is no tax dollars are involved. State and federal archaeologists, who need sizable amounts of tax dollars to conduct their projects, are feeling pressure from the exposure of their mystique. They are reacting out of fear for their jobs and are dismayed that grants and subsidies might be reduced as sport divers learn archaeological techniques.

The freedom to retrieve an artifact from marine sites by scientists, geographers, historians and sport divers would be restricted by new regulations generated through S-858. Some academic and historical foundation groups are becoming increasingly alarmed by the rapid spread of state and federal laws that restrict access to the water. Under Rights of Access in S-858, it says: "... guarantee recreational exploration of shipwreck sites." When was the last time your state guaranteed you anything? In mine, the only guarantees are higher taxes and bureaucratic boondoggling. In the same Rights of Access section of S-858 it states: "Provide that reasonable access by the public to such abandoned shipwrecks be permitted by the State holding title to such shipwrecks pursuant to section six of this Act." Take note of the wording, "permitted." When you turn to section six, Rights of Ownership, it says: "The United States asserts title to any abandoned shipwreck that is: 1. embedded in submerged lands of a State; 2. embedded in coralline formations protected by a State on submerged lands of a State." I ask you this: Aren't most shipwrecks embedded in something? Do you see the bureaucratic double-talk? If you want a copy of this six page farce, send me $1 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope and you can peruse the rest of this confusing jargon.

The bill is flimsy. It contains many doubtful and confusing promises. Its jurisdiction is enormous, extending along thousands of miles of coastline, interior lakes and inland waterways—including those in our western states. The bill would have drastic impact upon coastal,

(Continued on Page 148)



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Scuba Quiz

Category: Diving Medicine

Topic: Chambers

By Dennis Graver

Divers are expected to be familiar with chambers and their use, but there is very little information about them in recreational texts. It is time to find out how much you know about the topic. Select all correct answers to the questions, then compare your answers with those on the following page.

1. A typical chamber used to treat recreational divers is best defined as a pressure vessel capable of simulating pressures:
- ☐ A. Up to ten atmospheres
- ☐ B. Up to six atmospheres
- ☐ C. Less than one atmosphere
- ☐ D. From less than one atmosphere up to six atmospheres

2. The type of chamber used to treat recreational divers is most correctly referred to as a:
- ☐ A. Decompression chamber
- ☐ B. Recompression chamber
- ☐ C. Hyperbaric chamber
- ☐ D. High pressure vessel

3. Chambers are used for the treatment of which of the following diving maladies:
- ☐ A. Decompression sickness
- ☐ B. Air embolism
- ☐ C. Spontaneous pneumothorax
- ☐ D. Mediastinal emphysema

4. The use of monoplace chambers is _____ for diving-related injuries.
- ☐ A. Appropriate
- ☐ B. Encouraged
- ☐ C. Discouraged
- ☐ D. Absolutely discouraged

5. The main advantage of the type of chamber known as a double-lock chamber is:
- ☐ A. A victim can remain under pressure while personnel and materials are transferred in and out
- ☐ B. Two or more injured divers may be treated simultaneously
- ☐ C. The chamber may be separated into two compartments to treat different injuries simultaneously

6. Monoplace chambers are usually pressurized with:
- ☐ A. Compressed air
- ☐ B. Pure oxygen
- ☐ C. A mixture of helium and oxygen
- ☐ D. A mixture of nitrogen and oxygen

7. Double-lock chambers are usually pressurized with:
- ☐ A. Compressed air
- ☐ B. Pure oxygen
- ☐ C. A mixture of helium and oxygen
- ☐ D. A mixture of nitrogen and oxygen

8. The two greatest potential hazards associated with chamber treatments are:
- ☐ A. Fire
- ☐ B. Oxygen toxicity
- ☐ C. Carbon monoxide toxicity
- ☐ D. Carbon dioxide toxicity

9. Decompression sickness victims are treated in a chamber starting at a depth equivalent to:
- ☐ A. 60 feet
- ☐ B. 165 feet
- ☐ C. 60 to 165 feet
- ☐ D. Double the maximum depth reached by the diver

10. Air embolism victims are treated in a chamber at a depth equivalent to:
- ☐ A. 60 feet
- ☐ B. 165 feet
- ☐ C. 60 to 165 feet
- ☐ D. Double the maximum depth reached by the diver

11. Oxygen is breathed during chamber treatment:
- ☐ A. Continuously
- ☐ B. Periodically
- ☐ C. To reduce the size of bubbles in the circulatory system
- ☐ D. To prevent treatment personnel from being affected by narcosis.

12. Principles involved in chamber treatment include:
- ☐ A. Compression to collapse circulatory bubbles
- ☐ B. Compression to reduce the size of circulatory bubbles
- ☐ C. Oxygen breathing to reduce the size of circulatory bubbles
- ☐ D. High pressure outgassing of desaturated tissues

13. If your dive buddy requires chamber treatment and a chamber is a great distance away, you should:
- ☐ A. Administer oxygen
- ☐ B. Carry out in-water treatment
- ☐ C. Still get your buddy to the chamber

14. To identify the location of the nearest operational chamber, you should contact:
- ☐ A. The Experimental Diving Unit
- ☐ B. NOAA
- ☐ C. DAN
- ☐ D. The U.S. Coast Guard

scuba Quiz

Answers: Chambers

1. B. Up to six atmospheres. Small, single-person chambers can simulate a depth of 60 feet. The preferred type of chamber can be pressurized to a depth of at least 165 feet. Chambers capable of pressure less than one atmosphere are *hypo*baric vessels and are not used to treat divers.

2. B. or C. Commercial divers use chambers for decompression purposes, but recreational divers do not. Divers get recompressed in a recompression chamber, often called and used as a hyperbaric unit as well.

3. A. Decompression sickness and B. Air Embolism. An air embolism is an arterial blockage and decompression sickness is a venous blockage. Both types of blockages can be reduced and possibly eliminated with recompression. Pneumothorax and emphysema are treated medically. Recompression is not in order for these injuries unless they occur in conjunction with arterial gas embolism.

4. C. Discouraged. Monoplace chambers are not usually rated for the pressure required for the treatment of diving injuries. They allow no access to the victim for medical assistance and they are usually pressurized with 100 percent oxygen, which can lead to oxygen toxicity. Five minute air breaks are required after 20 minute periods of oxygen breathing.

5. A. A victim can remain under pressure while personnel and materials are transferred in and out. A double-lock chamber has an outer lock and an inner lock. Pressure can be raised in the outer lock to equal that of the inner lock, thereby allowing access to the inner lock; and the pressure in the outer lock can be lowered to allow passage in and out of the chamber while the inner lock remains pressurized.

6. B. Pure oxygen. Small, monoplace chambers are usually pressurized with pure oxygen. They are most frequently used to treat illnesses such as gas gangrene, carbon monoxide poisoning and a variety of slow-healing wounds. They are not designed for the treatment of serious diving injuries.

7. A. Compressed air. Treatment chambers have vast storage banks of compressed air to quickly pressurize the vessel in emergencies. Oxygen is also used for treatment inside the chamber, but the gas is supplied by means of demand masks or an oxygen hood.

8. A. Fire and B. Oxygen toxicity. Owing to the high partial pressure of oxygen in the environment of a chamber, fire poses a serious threat. Fire prevention is an important part of chamber operations. Pure oxygen is breathed as part of the treatment for diving injuries and a toxic reaction may result. Oxygen breathing is interrupted with periods of air breathing to prevent toxicity.

9. A. 60 feet. Victims of bends are pressurized to a depth of 60 feet and slowly decompressed, according to standardized treatment tables, for up to six hours.

10. B. 165 feet. Air embolism victims are quickly pressurized to a depth equivalent to 165 feet. When a diver is unconscious after an ascent involving compressed air breathing, the same procedure is followed as a precaution. Unconscious patients must have a viable, open airway during recompression. Squeezes may pose a problem, but they are not a priority in a serious emergency.

11. B. Periodically and C. To reduce the size of bubbles in the circulatory system. If oxygen is breathed continuously below 60 feet, convulsions will result; so its use requires special procedures. Oxygen is breathed to flush nitrogen from the body. This leads to a reduction of bubble size since nitrogen is pulled from bubbles into the low-nitrogen blood and tissues. For this same reason, oxygen is extremely beneficial for accident victims even before recompression.

12. B. Compression to reduce the size of circulatory bubbles and C. Oxygen breathing to reduce the size of circulatory bubbles. Oxygen can reduce the size of bubbles in the circulatory system as described in the previous answer. The bubbles are also made smaller by compression under high pressure, but the reduction is not linear because the bubbles are spheres. For example, for a bubble to be reduced in diameter by 45 percent, a depth of 165 feet is required.

13. A. Administer oxygen and C. Still get your buddy to the chamber. Oxygen should be administered for any serious diving injury. Even if it takes a day or more, your buddy should be taken to an appropriate facility for treatment. In-water treatment constitutes a repetitive dive and only compounds the problems; it should not be attempted.

14. C. Divers Alert Network (DAN). DAN provides a valuable service to our community. In the event of an accident, it can be contacted for information on the nearest diving physician, hyperbaric chamber, etc. This service is available 24 hours a day. All divers should support DAN by being members of the organization.

It is good to be familiar with hyperbaric chambers, treatment principles and procedures used, and the precautions necessary during treatment. Chamber orientation is frequently included in advanced diving courses or offered by many chamber facilities. It is interesting and fun to learn more about chambers by taking a "ride" in one as part of an orientation. This is the only way you would ever want to acquire chamber experience. Remember that a little prevention is far better than a lot of treatment, so dive accordingly.

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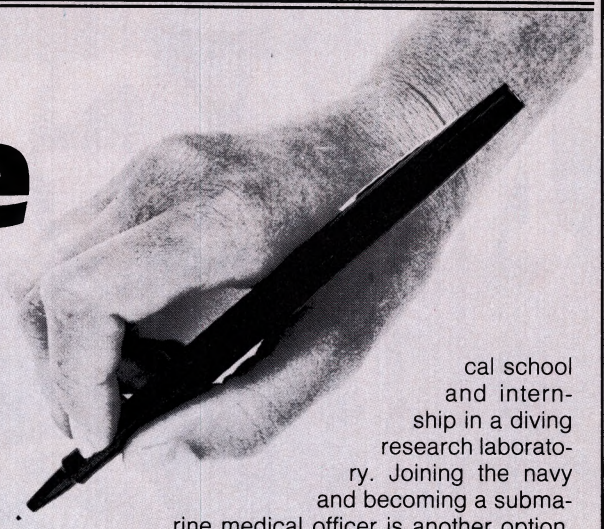
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Diving Medicine

BY ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.



This month we include some recent correspondence with divers inquiring about medical problems:

SOFT CONTACT LENSES

Many divers now use soft contacts while diving and they seem to have little problem with them. There is no contraindication to diving with them. If your mask floods, you may lose one or both, but otherwise, they should work well.

BONE NECROSIS—NOT FROM DIVING

There are no cases of bone necrosis from sport diving reported and none in children who dive. Children do get minor bone necrosis while they are growing and there are many known cases of this. Most are of no consequence and do not cause permanent problems. Again, they are not related to diving.

MOUTH HERPES

One reader wrote that his wife always developed *Herpes* on her mouth after diving. This may come from the mild trauma caused by the mouthpiece compressing against the inner surface of the lips. One solution is to use a soft (natural) rubber mouthpiece, so compression of the mucosa is minimized. If this does not work, then your wife may have to avoid sun and diving for several months until her immune system can effectively suppress the virus. If this is not done then diving will be difficult and should most likely be avoided.

HOT SHOWER AFTER DIVING

There has always been some concern about a diver taking a hot shower immediately after diving. This is because gases dissolved in fluids, such as in the body after a dive, are less soluble when the fluid is heated. This is the opposite of solids dissolved in liquids, where warmer temperatures allow more solids to dissolve. In the case of dissolved gases, warmer means less dissolved gas.

From this physical concept came the idea that a hot shower after diving might cause gases to come out of solution and cause the bends. In actual practice, this has not been the case, and in general, there is no significant problem in taking a hot shower after diving. In some commercial deep or saturation diving exposures, hot showers are sometimes avoided for several hours after surfacing, but the sport diving exposure is not severe enough to cause concern.

DIVING AFTER EYE SURGERY

After adequate healing of the surgical incisions in the eye, and assurance there are no air pockets remaining in the eye after the surgery, the patient should be able to return to diving. There have been several people who wrote to say they had been diving successfully after lens surgery.

The concerns involve risk of infection if the surgical incisions are not well healed. Waiting three to four months after surgery should solve this problem. Several ophthalmologists have indicated they could see no problem with the lens implants. However, there must be no remaining air pockets in the eye, because they will change volume with depth and could cause injury to the eye.

DIVING AFTER LUNG SURGERY

Removal of a lung creates a major change in the normal mechanics of the chest and would make the patient prone to injury of the remaining lung, with the possible risk of air embolism from lung overpressure. Because of the changes in lung mechanics, I would suggest such patients not dive because of the risk of air embolism. It is also likely exercise tolerance will be reduced after one lung is removed. Loss of half of the oxygen transport capacity of the lungs may place a diver in jeopardy during heavy exercise.

A CAREER IN DIVING MEDICINE

There are many ways to pursue a career in diving medicine. Those interested could do a post-doc after medical school and internship in a diving research laboratory. Joining the navy and becoming a submarine medical officer is another option. The navy training program includes an excellent course in diving medicine. There are several women who have gone through the course and are now diving medical officers in the navy. The school is in Panama City, Florida.

Training in diving medicine always complements another career.

DIVING WHILE PREGNANT

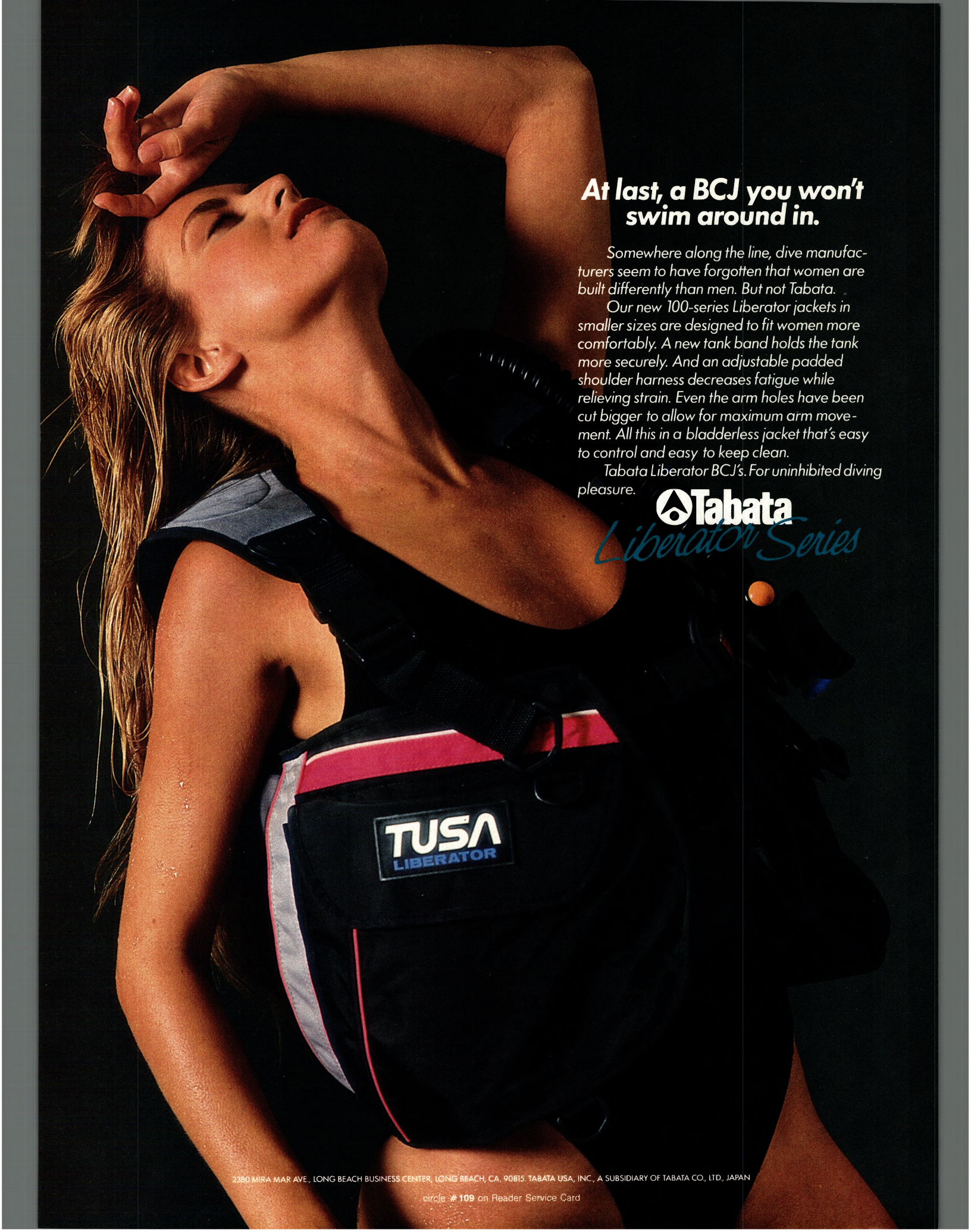
In women who dive while pregnant there is some evidence the baby may develop bends even when the mother has a safe dive. These data come from animal studies, but they are compelling. There is also concern that the increased oxygen concentration could cause harm to the developing fetus. There are well documented cases of eye injury in newborns given high oxygen partial pressures. This situation will not occur when diving, but if you needed treatment for bends or air embolism, the high oxygen under pressure is likely to injure the fetus. Because of these concerns, we recommend that women put the health of the baby first and avoid diving until after it is delivered. Then, the mother can return to diving without any concerns.

TOOTH PAIN AFTER DIVING

One reader wrote regarding tooth pain after diving. I feel his physician was correct in diagnosing a sinus squeeze from diving. This is a common problem that often comes from having some congestion in the nose and sinus area while diving. Usually, if the diver gets over the congestion, the sinus squeeze will not return. If it does, then he/she should have an exam by an ENT doctor to be sure there isn't a blocked sinus.

If decongestants are used, the problem should not occur in the future.

The sinus lies directly over the teeth and nerves to it can be compressed when a squeeze occurs, causing tooth pain.



At last, a BCJ you won't swim around in.

Somewhere along the line, dive manufacturers seem to have forgotten that women are built differently than men. But not Tabata.

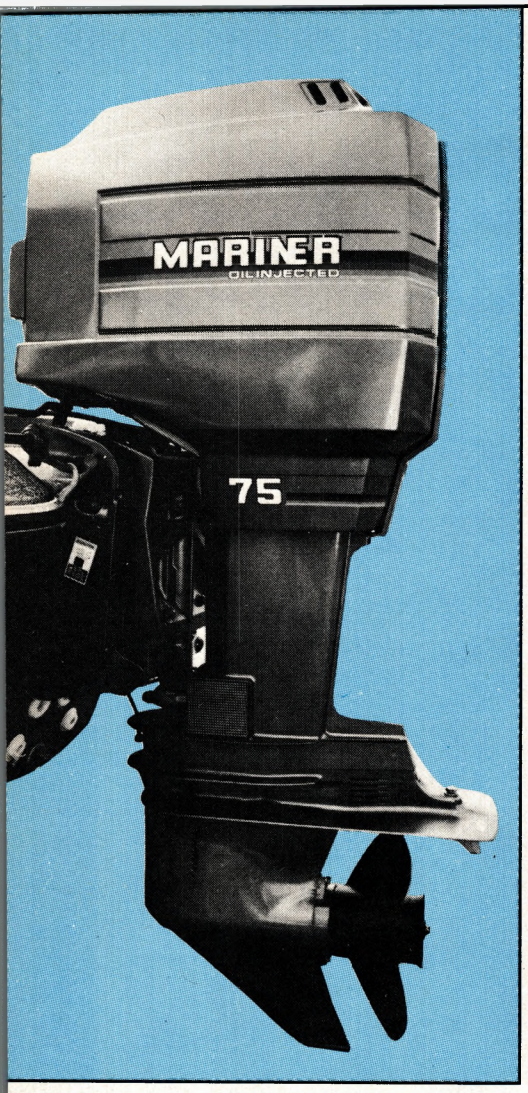
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MARINER 75 HP OUTBOARD

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

Within the motorboating industry, the downsizing of outboard motors is becoming apparent. Like the automotive industry several years ago, fuel economy without sacrificing power is what outboard motor designers are striving to accomplish. It has taken almost five years for Mariner engineers to design and build the ideal outboard engine. However, the long awaited Mariner 75, three cylinder outboard is well worth a look.

The 75 horsepower motor was the second engine SKIN DIVER had arranged to test at the Mariner Outboard Testing Facility in Placida, Florida. The metallic gray engine, equipped with power trim, power tilt, remote steering and throttle was rigged and ready to go when we arrived. Mounted on the transom of a small ski boat, the smooth, responsive steering linkage and throttle control was a little like handling a Grand Prix race car.

When the throttle was pushed forward, the quick response of the motor was impressive. With the chill wind slapping my face, I immediately had visions of driving *Miss Budweiser* across the choppy bay. And yet, even at full throttle, engine noise and vibration were kept to a minimum—a result of quiet engine dampers and through-hub exhaust.

Mariner Outboard Motors has introduced several innovative design features on the new three cylinder 75 over last year's four cylinder 75. For starters, the new Mariner 75s have a large three cylinder displacement that incorporates loop scavenging. If you have been shopping for outboards you know that loop charging is "hot" in the industry. "Loopers" offer better fuel economy by burning unused gases, increasing performance.

The family of three cylinder outboard motors that includes the new Mariner 90 features integral oil injection—100:1 at idle and 50:1 at full throttle. The injection system is gear driven from the crankshaft and delivers oil not only relative to crank speed but also to throttle position. Also, rather than using multi-port oil injection, the oil is injected into the system at the fuel pump. This feature, of course, guarantees better oil mixing and is less susceptible to dirt and foreign contamination.

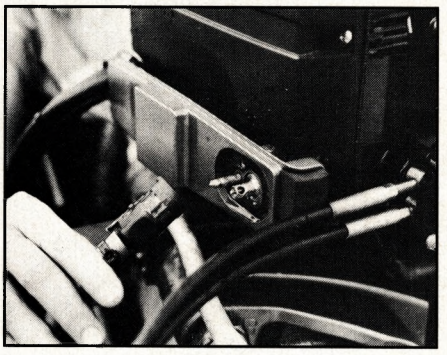
The self-contained oil tank fits snugly under the engine cowl and is encapsulated in rubber. The easy access oil filling feature is enhanced by the clam shell cowling and latch mechanism. The on board oil tank has a one gallon capacity (18 hours of running at 3,500 rpm; 6 hours at open throttle).

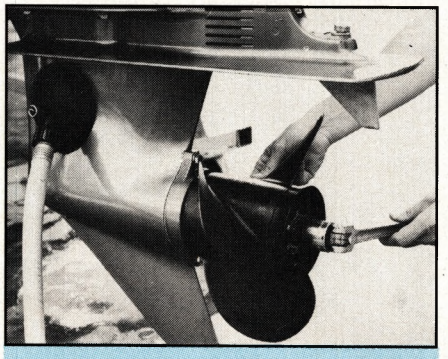
This simple unit has less plumbing, minimizing oil leaks and can be conveniently checked at all times by simply glancing through a transparent window on the engine cowl. Additionally, should you forget to check the oil, a low level audible sensor verifies oil level and system function. If one day you should find yourself caught at sea with little oil in the unit, the sensor is designed to warn at one hour of running at full throttle to allow time to return to the dock.

These engines have been designed to run on 78 octane fuels and have also been tested successfully on 65 octane fuels. The Mariner outboards have also been tested and run on Third World oils and are tolerant to four cycle oil. (Though it is not recommended, Third World oils are often four cycle oil).

The integral working parts of the Mariner outboard line are most impressive. Mariner engineers have consistently achieved high hour performance testing. This increase in durability is largely owing to improved component design. For example, the keystone type piston rings eliminate carbon build-up and the pistons are made from a high silicon composite

(Continued on Page 143)





The Mariner 75 is a three cylinder engine with several innovative features. It has loop scavenging and integral oil injection. Above, left: The 75's quick-disconnect fuel line. Above: The engine flushing device (note hose).

MARINER 75 HP

Horsepower	75 hp
RPM	4,750-5,250
Cylinders	3, in-line
Displacement	71.1 cu. in. (1,165 cc)
Bore/stroke	3.375 x 2.65" 85.7 x 3 mm
Cooling system	Water cooled with thermostat
Ignition	Capacitor discharge
Starting	Electric
Gear ratio	2.3:1
Gear shift	F-N-R
Steering/throttle/ shift attachments	Remote
Alternator system	12v/110w; 12v/288w opt.
Trim positions	Power trim optional
Fuel	Regular unleaded or leaded
Weight	265 lbs. (121 kg)
Propeller safety	Splined rubber hub
Transom heights	L-20"/ XL-25"
Propeller selection	11-30"
Induction system	Loop charged (3 carb.)
Exhaust	Through hub
Oil injection	Standard



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Even our Dynam Flex snorkels are designed to give you more freedom. Flexible segments above the purge valve keep the mouthpiece away when you're using a regulator, yet bend for maximum comfort when you're snorkeling. And a sliding clasp makes it easy to lock the tube correctly in place on the mask strap.

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SURF & SAND METAL DETECTOR

Digital And Programmable

BY JIM WALKER

The only things missing are the wheels! I mean, the Eagle metal detector will do everything but carry you to treasure. Microprocessor controlled, with no knobs or dials, this programmable unit has a host of high tech features including indication of "hits" in both audio and visual (LCD screen) modes. And, just like many modern 35mm cameras, it offers the simplicity of fully automatic operation or the flexibility of a multitude of user controlled settings.

The Eagle metal detector from White's Electronics is not intended to be used underwater. The searchcoil is submersible, so the unit can be used in shallow streams, ponds or at the beach, but the electronics box should never get wet. However, divers don't spend all their time underwater, and a tremendous amount of treasure has been found at the beach and inland.

Primarily designed as a coin shooter, the Eagle can be used to search for everything from foil to fenders. And, it can be set to register or ignore any of it. You can even *teach* the Eagle what's hot and what's not.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

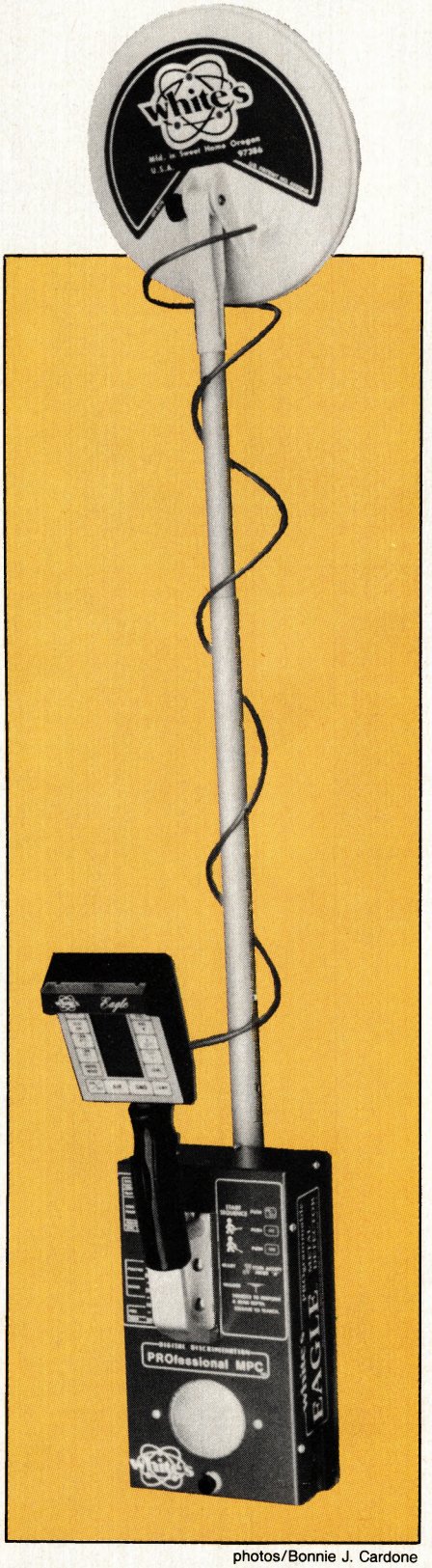
The first thing that stands out about the Eagle is its control panel. At the top of the hand grip, it has no knobs or dials and features 14 small, labeled touch pads and an LCD screen. There is a light above the screen for nighttime operation and a trigger switch on the back of the control panel.

The Eagle's hand grip is securely attached to the top of the electronics box. It protrudes slightly forward and above the box. In this position, the grip is centered at the point of balance for the entire metal detector. It takes no effort at all to hold the Eagle in the perfect position for correct use.

The Eagle's blue electronics box features a speaker on top for audio monitoring. This is Mylar plastic, so moisture in the air won't affect it. A headphone jack is next to the speaker. The box has operational instructions and other valuable information printed on both its top and bottom and has a hinged door at the rear for access to the battery compartment.

The electronics box is attached to an adjustable (24-36 inches) aluminum shaft. The box can be removed from the shaft and worn on an optional hip mount. An optional elbow support/hand grip is then used with the shaft.

The Eagle comes with a waterproof, eight inch diameter, concentric loop searchcoil. It is powered by four C-cells incorporated in a removable battery pack. Two packs are provided. One contains rechargeable nickel cadmium cells, the other can be filled with alkaline cells. A charger is included. A full charge takes eight hours and will power the Eagle for about eight hours of use.



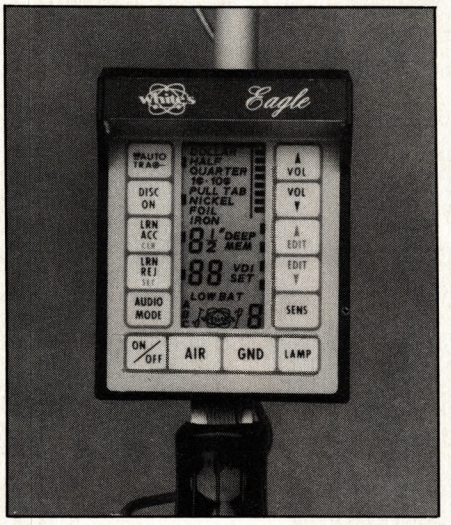
photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

OPERATION

The Eagle offers an amazing amount of flexibility in selecting control options. The scope of this article won't permit an in-depth discussion of each one, but an overview is provided. As almost all options are controlled by the touch pads, the discussion of these will serve as a guide to the use of the Eagle.

ON/OFF: When the Eagle is off, the LCD screen is blank. When the On/Off touch pad is pressed, all possible displays on the screen are activated at once. After a moment, the screen clears except for a small illustration of a detector with its coil upward, which appears above the Air pad.

The Eagle metal detector is programmable and operated by touch pads surrounding an LCD screen. On initial activation, the screen shows all possible displays.



AIR: Hold the searchcoil up in the air and press the Air pad. This air balances the Eagle.

GDN: When an illustration of a detector (with the coil down) appears above the Gnd pad, place the searchcoil on the ground and press that pad. This ground balances the Eagle.

When this is complete, the White's logo will appear at the bottom of the LCD screen, indicating the detector is ready for operation.

LAMP: When you press the Lamp pad, a light above the LCD screen comes on. When the Lamp pad is pressed and held, a two digit number appears on the screen. This is the battery indicator, and the number shown indicates the charge: For example, the number 60 indicates 6.0 volts—48 equals 4.8 volts.

VOL: There are two Vol pads. With these, several levels of volume can be selected for the audio tone. The settings are graphically displayed on the LCD screen by dark bars.

SENS: The Sens pad controls the sensitivity of the Eagle's search—more sensitive means a deeper search. When the

(Continued on Page 38)

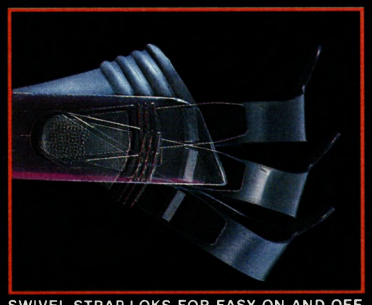
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ACHILLES SD-156

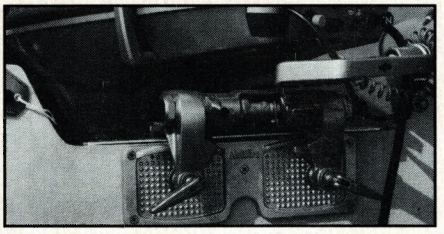
THE INFLATABLES

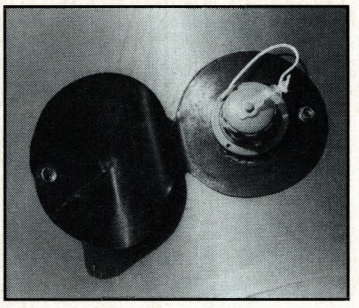
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE COZENS

Achilles, if you recall Greek mythology, was a hero in Homer's story of the Trojan War. His success as a warrior was owing, in part, to his invulnerability—a protective shield, so to speak, which resulted when his mother held him by the heel and dipped him in the Styx, a river encircling the lower world. Achilles met his end when Paris shot an arrow into his heel, the only unprotected spot on his body. Hence, Achilles' heel refers to a vulnerable point: A mortal weakness.

Concentrating on the positive aspects of his almost total invulnerability, Achilles would seem to be an appropriate name for an inflatable boat. Except for that tiny heel, the name conjures up images of almost complete indestructibility. Quite likely, the Achilles Corporation of Tokyo, Japan, had this type of recognition in mind when selecting its name. The inflatable reviewed this month, the Achilles SD-156 sportboat, appears to carry on the ancient warrior's tradition.

Lying about midway (in terms of length and price) in the extensive line of 39 models of inflatable boats available from Achilles, the SD-156 is a tough skinned vessel. Indeed, the "skin" of this boat starts with a heavy duty fabric woven of 840 denier nylon. Two separate layers of neoprene are applied to the inside surface and a layer of Hypalon is applied to the outer surface. The neoprene serves as an airtight barrier, while the Hypalon compound provides superior resistance to damage from abrasions, oil and gasoline, sunlight, ozone and saltwater. According to Achilles, the company uses the highest percentage of Hypalon in its materials (about 80 percent) in the industry. The nylon and Hypalon layers are calendered (pressed into and onto the fabric under high heat and pressure) in successive operations. The material is cut into the desired shapes and joined at the edges with a full one inch overlap seam, reinforced with seam tape inside and out.





The SD-156 features a transom with a heavy duty engine mounting plate. The SD-156 has removable inflation valves.

After the side tubes are formed they are securely bonded to the fiberglass reinforced plywood transom. Although a 35 horsepower, standard shaft engine is recommended, this transom will handle up to a 55 hp engine. To provide protection from the engine clamp and prevent engine movement, the transom is fitted with a heavy duty aluminum engine mounting plate. Additionally, fabric guards at each side help keep prop splash out of the boat.

While the smaller forward floorboards are fiberglass, the larger sections aft, in the standard boat, are of heavy marine plywood finished with a high gloss varnish. Optionally available are aluminum floorboards, for only about $90 more. These are highly recommended since they will withstand the abuse of heavy diving equipment better than those of wood. In either case, divers should consider covering the decking with indoor/outdoor carpeting for added protection.

As you might have guessed, the Achilles SD-156 is strongly built. Other strong points include a number of desirable features for any watersport activity, but especially nice for diving applications. For a boat with an overall length of 15½ feet and a beam of 6¼, the interior offers a lot of room: Inside length is 9½ feet, sans bowdodger and the beam is almost three feet. The tubes are large—just short of 20 inches in diameter—and account for the massive loading capacity of 2,750 pounds; that's almost one and one-half tons for a boat less than 16 feet in length and only about 230 pounds in weight.

Extra protection is given the tubes by a wide, molded rubber rubbing strake that extends all around the outboard edge. Bonded to the top of the tubes, along their entire length, is the combination lacing cuff/spray deflector, the aft two-thirds of which serve as the attachment for the lifelines. Four molded rubber lifting handles (one provided fore and aft on each side) make carrying the boat by hand easier and a fifth handle on the inside of the starboard tube offers a secure hand-hold for the helmsman when operating at high speeds. Near the top inside surface of the tubes are seven D-rings that can be conveniently used to tie down miscellaneous equipment. Additional standard features include a removable bowdodger (complete with its own support bar); a combination stainless steel towing ring and bow carrying handle; two extra stainless steel towing D-rings low on the bow; a self-bailing bilge drain; large inflation/deflation valves (removable one-way valves, capped for double protection); a carrying/storage bag; a high volume foot pump; a repair kit; and a fuel tank tie down. Also, if the bowdodger is not used, its support bracket makes a perfect holder for the staff of a divers down flag. Although the SD-156 does not come with oars, it would be a good investment to have them added by the dealer. Should a problem arise with the engine, you might find paddles are inadequate in providing much propulsion.

In addition to durability, Achilles stresses safety in its boats. As their literature states, "You'll usually find at least one more chamber on an Achilles than on any comparable competing model." As an example, the SD-156 has five separate air chambers, plus the inflatable

(Continued on Page 168)

NEW

Take a look at the SkinnyDipper™...

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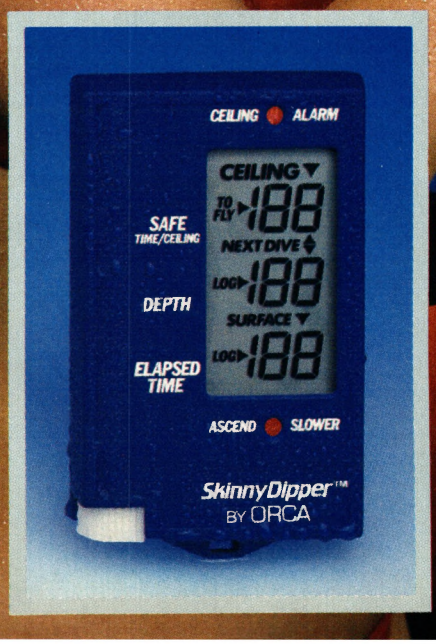
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photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

TUSA LIBERATOR FIN

BY JIM WALKER

The Liberator has a streamlined, drag reducing shape; twin vertical stabilizers; power; variable angle of attack; quick takeoff; and incorporates the most modern, lightweight materials. Sounds like something with which to combat Iraqi jets, doesn't it? Actually, however, it's designed for diver comfort and efficient propulsion underwater. The TUSA (Tabata USA) Liberator fin takes the hottest fin style—plastic blade material—and updates it with several innovative features.

The Liberator's overall shape is racy looking and hydrodynamically designed to cut smoothly through the water. Its blade is made of a snappy, lightweight elastomer for increased propulsion with reduced fatigue. It has tall side ribs that run from the heel of the footpocket, tapering to the blade tip, providing strength and efficiently channeling water. At the blade tip there are two vertical stabilizers to further reduce sideslip. These also hold the blade up off boat decks to reduce abrasion during that interval when the diver is suited up yet not in the water.

The fin blade features a large vent near the tip of the footpocket. Its unique shape is designed to channel water through the blade in different directions on the upkick and downkick—reducing water resistance on the former and increasing efficiency on the latter.

The Liberator's footpocket is made of a flexible elastomer, securely bonded to the blade. Part of this bonding includes herringbone shaped ridges of the footpocket material that protrude through the blade material beneath the foot. These not only add to the bond, they provide traction for the wearer.

The footpocket is wide and streamlined. It has a soft, double ridge at the opening for comfort and resistance to tearing. It also has two drain slots at the toe. Plastic inserts are provided with the fins to prevent distortion of the footpocket during long periods of storage.

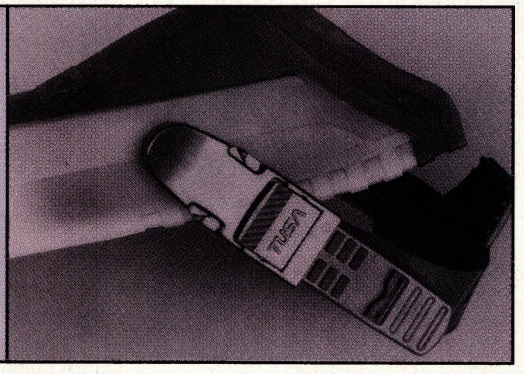
Some of the most impressive features of the Liberator are found in its strap/buckle system. Probably the most unique of these is that each buckle has a quick release mechanism. By pinching two tabs on the buckle, that end of the heel strap, including its adjustment mechanism, can be instantly released. This allows the wearer to maintain a snug strap adjustment, yet put on or take off the fin without effort or changing the adjustment.

An alternate method of donning the fin makes use of another convenience feature: swivel buckles. Merely pull the heel strap down out of the way to slip the foot in the footpocket, then pull the strap back up behind the heel. A large, sturdy pull tab—with prominent ridges for good gripping by gloved fingers—makes this easy. The swivel buckles also allow the strap to be positioned for individual comfort.

The method of strap adjustment is, itself, an excellent convenience feature. A firm tug on a strap end will tighten the strap. (The strap ends also have prominent ridges for a good grip.) To loosen it, merely press in on a spring loaded tab on the side of the buckle and pull the strap in the opposite direction.

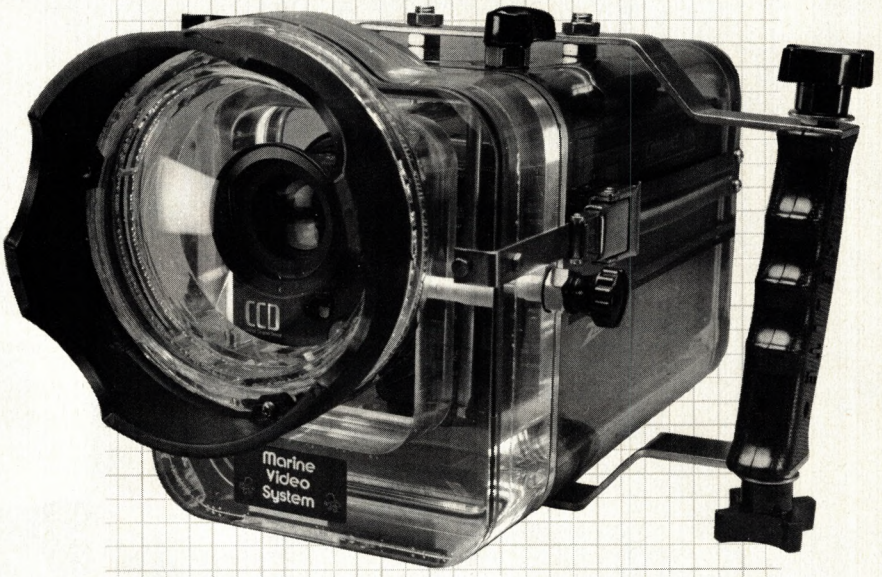
The TUSA Liberator fin retails for $72. Colors available include a clear blade with either a yellow or black footpocket, and a gray footpocket with a blue blade. A black blade (incorporating graphite)/black footpocket combination is available for $74. For the location of your nearest dealer contact Tabata, 2380 Mira Mar Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815.

The TUSA Liberator fin has a sleek design with a blade made of snappy elastomer. The blade features unique vents and is bonded to a soft footpocket. The heel strap swivels for comfortable positioning and it has quick release buckles at both ends. The buckles have press-in tabs for quick adjustment.



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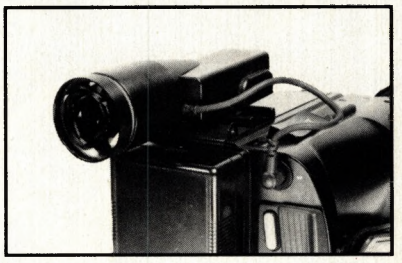
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DACOR'S DIGITAL CONSOLE

A COLORFUL DIVE BUDDY



The Hi-Tech Console contains three instruments: A Digital Information Center, which keeps track of bottom time, surface interval, current depth, dive number and maximum depth; a pressure gauge; and a compass.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

It has been said that finding the right dive buddy is harder than choosing a spouse. I agree. My "perfect" buddy would have many unique characteristics. First and foremost, he would look good underwater and have the patience to pose endlessly. Second, he would be a terrific lobster grabber and be willing to share his catch with me. Third, he would never lose me underwater, no matter what the visibility. Of course, this is just the beginning; my actual dream dive buddy characteristic list is a good deal longer; finding one person who meets all my criteria is probably impossible.

Fortunately, however, there is more than one kind of buddy. The Dacor Hi-Tech Console, for example, is a mechanical dive buddy: It's an accurate, reliable, comprehensive system for keeping track of such information as bottom time, dive number, current depth and maximum depth; tank pressure and air/water temperature. Best of all, it does all of these automatically; there are no buttons to push or needles to reset. All you have to do is look at it from time to time. With the optional compass, it will help you navigate, too.

The Hi-Tech Console contains three different instruments: A Digital Information Center (DIC), pressure gauge/thermometer and a compass. Let's take a look at the Digital Information Center first. This Lexan housed module is at the top of the console. It has six liquid crystal displays (LCDs). The top one keeps track of surface intervals for up to 12 hours. Under it are three windows: The one on the far left counts the number of dives, up to nine, and the middle one keeps track of current depth, down to 200 feet. The far right window is the battery indicator. It will be blank unless the battery is low. The DIC is powered by a 3.5 volt lithium cell that provides about 840 hours of use. If unused, the battery has a shelf life of five years. When the lithium cell needs replacement, the gauge should be returned to an authorized repair facility.

Under the DIC's three middle windows are two more. The one on the left records

the maximum depth reached on each dive, the other one keeps track of bottom time. Dacor literature indicates the DIC will begin to record bottom time between 9 and 13 feet and both of the gauges we tested in a pressure pot began to record at 12 feet. Dacor says they are accurate to within plus or minus one percent along the entire scale; thus they would never be more than 18 inches off. We took them down to 87 feet and found them to be extremely accurate. The current depth display has a second function: If the user exceeds a safe rate of ascent (60 feet per minute) it will flash, serving as a warning to slow down.

The DIC begins recording surface intervals when the user has ascended above 12 feet. If this interval is less than 10 minutes, the gauge automatically adds the bottom time of the next dive to the current one, counting them as one.

When a diver descends after a surface interval this display will go blank until he/she ascends again.

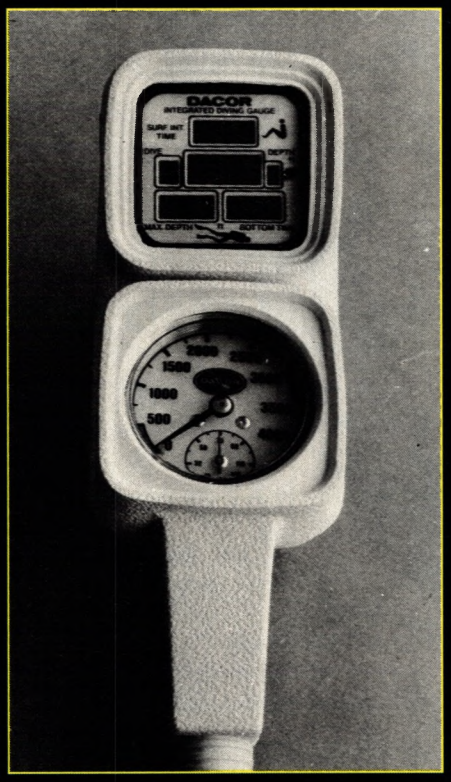
The second instrument in the Hi-Tech Console, just below the DIC, is the TAG 2. A Bourdon tube pressure gauge, it is housed in Lexan and graded in 500 psi increments. The lower end of the scale—500 to 0—and the higher end—3,000 to 4,500—are red, to indicate limited air supply and overfill, respectively.

In the bottom center of the SPG is an analog thermometer that reads air/water temperatures from 15 to 130°F.

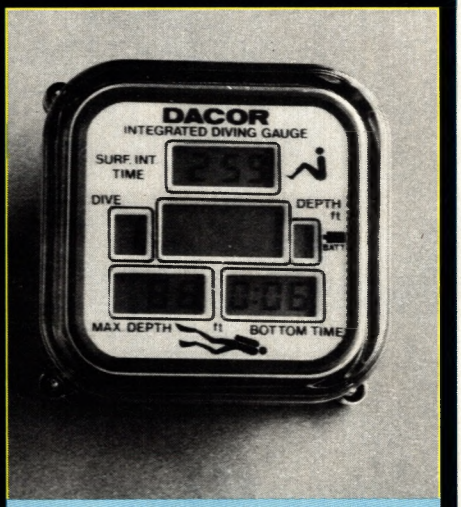
The third gauge in the Hi-Tech Console is the compass, which is optional. It is in a rubber housing that slips onto the console hose. A direct sighting instrument, it has gunsight type lugs on a two-way, racheted bezel. The compass is oil filled to dampen needle movement and allow the instrument to be read even if tilted 16 degrees. The compass card is luminous for easy reading in the dark. The compass can be read from the top or from a window on the right side. The lubber line is marked with a wide black arrow.

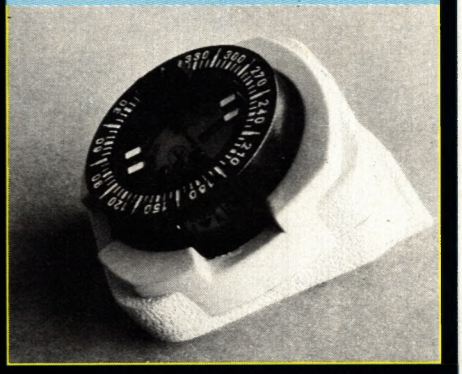
The Hi-Tech Console is protected by a sturdy rubber housing that comes in red, yellow, pink, royal blue, turquoise and black. It swivels 360 degrees and is angled for easy reading. Designed to fit comfortably in a diver's hand, it sells for $360 without the compass. The optional, color matched compass is $44.

Human dive buddies are necessary and desirable, as is an accurate, reliable way of keeping track of various variables during a dive. The Dacor Hi-Tech Console is a mechanical buddy that fulfills certain needs perfectly—but I'm still looking for the perfect human buddy. Really good lobster catchers are rare. Hey Dacor, would you consider making a mechanical lobster catcher?



The console comes in five colors, plus black, and with or without a compass.





The DIC (above) has six windows that provide surface interval time, dive number, current depth, battery status, maximum depth and bottom time of the last dive. The compass (below) has a color coordinated housing.

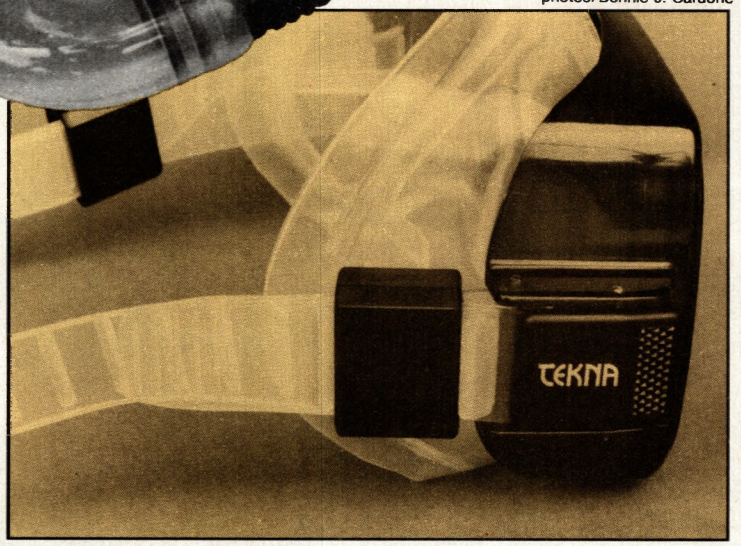


TEKNA 3 MASK



BY JIM WALKER

photos/Bonnie J. Cardone



The Tekna Mask 3 offers low volume and wide view. The Tekna Snorkel has a curved barrel with wide diameter, plus a silicone mouthpiece that swivels 360 degrees. The mask adjusts easily via Tekna's Strap Loks.

Last summer I reported on Tekna's 2SL Mask and Self-Draining Snorkel. In the fashion made popular by Hollywood, where good things are always followed up, this summer's offering is the sequel to that report—Tekna Mask 3!

Actually not a descendant of the 2SL, but an alternative to it, the Tekna Mask 3 features a twin lens design. The mask's small frame (only 5.75 inches across) positions these tempered glass lenses close to the face. This allows a wide angle of view and makes the mask very low volume. Lower volume makes the mask easier to clear and reduces drag underwater. The Mask 3's small size should also allow it to fit divers with narrow faces.

The frame is made of transparent polycarbonate for strength and light weight. It is available in aqua, citrine yellow, watermelon, cobalt blue, candy apple red or opaque black. These colors match those of Tekna snorkels and fins and will complement other gear as well. All styles have black plastic inserts around the lenses.

The Mask 3's skirt is soft, hypoallergenic silicone rubber (clear on all masks except the black, which has a black silicone skirt). This material is resistant to breakdown by ultraviolet light and ozone, but clear silicone should not be stored near black neoprene, which will cause it to yellow. The skirt has a wide double face seal and a nose pocket that's easy to reach with gloved fingertips.

The mask's headstrap is also silicone rubber and has a wide slotted center to prevent slipping on the head. The headstrap is secured and adjusted by means of Tekna's Strap-Loks. These are spring loaded buckles, fitted with rollers. Simply pulling backward on a strap end will tighten the headstrap; pressing in on the textured buckle tab allows the strap to be loosened easily. Strap overlap is secured with black plastic guides.

The Tekna Snorkel illustrates this article. Its barrel is made of a flexible, transparent elastomer, available in the same colors as the mask. It has a wide diameter for easy breathing. Black elbows at the snorkel bends add a touch of style. While they appear to be flex joints, they aren't. The inside of each elbow is smooth. There are no ridges to restrict air flow or trap moisture.

The snorkel has a soft silicone rubber mouthpiece that swivels 360 degrees for maximum comfort. It has collapsible bite tabs (Tube-Tabs) that conform to individual needs, reducing jaw fatigue.

The Tekna Mask 3 retails for $49.95. Prescription lenses are available ($60 a pair) from — 2 to — 6 diopters in 0.5 diopter increments. These can be installed at Tekna dealers. The Tekna Snorkel costs $19.95 and small mouthpieces are available if desired. For the location of your nearest Tekna dealer, contact Tekna, 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City, CA 94065-1086.







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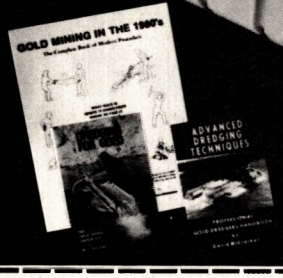
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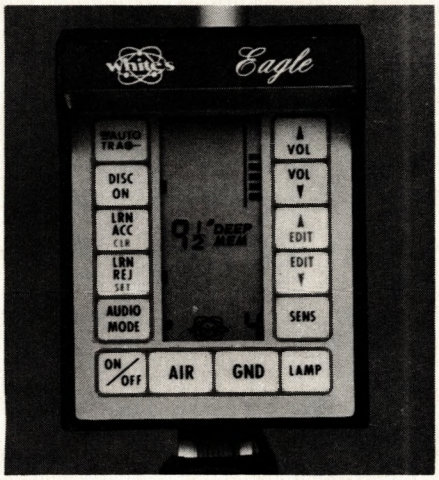
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EAGLE DETECTOR

(Continued from Page 28)

Eagle is activated, the sensitivity is set at 3 and this numeral is displayed on the screen. By pressing the pad, the sensitivity can be changed from 1-5, with 5 the most sensitive.

AUDIO MODE: The Eagle indicates hits on its LCD screen, but these visual indicators often change so fast as to be confusing during a rapid search. Consequently, the operator should concentrate on the audio tone to initially locate objects. Three audio modes are available, controlled by the Audio Mode touch pad. They are indicated on the screen as A, B or C. Mode A has a threshold tone that increases in volume when metal is detected. This mode requires the searchcoil



LCD screen indicates a "hit" 9½" deep; volume 5, sensitivity 4, audio mode B.

to be in motion for accurate readings. Mode B, also requiring motion, has no threshold tone. You only hear a tone when there's a hit. Mode C will work with or without searchcoil motion. It has a threshold tone and a second, higher frequency tone is heard when there's a hit.

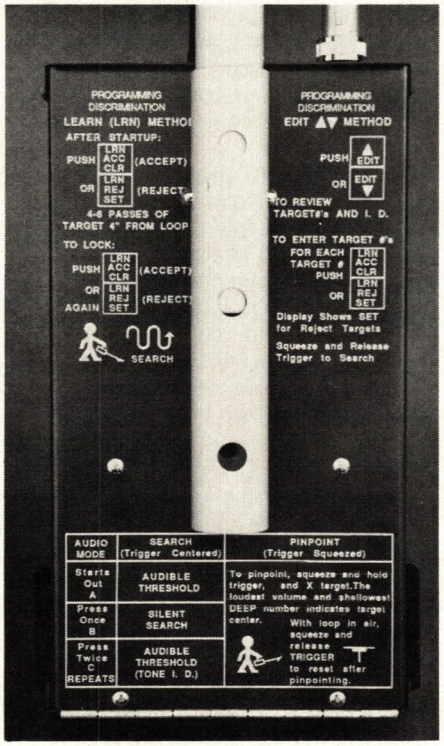
AUTO TRAC: When the Eagle is first turned on, a black bar appears next to the Auto Trac pad, indicating this function is active. This means the detector will automatically adjust its ground balance according to changing conditions. Pressing the pad turns Auto Trac off.

DISC ON: When the Eagle is first activated, a black bar next to the Disc On pad indicates the discriminator is on. In this mode, the Eagle will follow programed search parameters, accepting or rejecting various metals. If the pad is pressed, the black bar disappears, indicating the discriminator is off. In this mode all metals will be accepted.

LRN ACC CLR/LRN REJ SET: The Eagle has a permanent, preset program for accepting or rejecting various metals. This program is suitable for most conditions. However, the experienced user

can switch the unit to a temporary program (which will remain in memory as long as the batteries are not disconnected for more than 30 seconds). This temporary program can be set to the user's specifications. You can physically *teach* the Eagle to accept or reject an object by utilizing the Lrn Acc Clr or Lrn Rej Set pads and passing the searchcoil close to the object several times until the accept or reject tone is consistent.

EDIT: The Eagle's LCD screen registers hits in a two digit code from 00 to 95, with 00 being iron and 95 being silver dollars. Additionally, some metals trigger



the unit to display words such as: dollar, half, quarter, pull tab, foil, iron. The Edit pads can be pressed to scroll the list of programed numbers up or down. You can set the Eagle (in temporary memory) to accept or reject metals giving the various numbered readings, utilizing the Lrn Acc Clr and Lrn Rej Set pads. These numbers can be accepted or rejected individually or in blocks.

TRIGGER: One of the most impressive features of the Eagle is its ability to tell you how deep coin sized metal objects are buried. When the detector registers a hit, you pull the trigger and the object depth is displayed on the LCD screen in one-half inch increments from 0 to 9½ inches. As the searchcoil nears and then passes over the object, the indicated depth will change, with the shallowest depth indicated when the center of the coil is directly over the object. The threshold tone will be its loudest at this point also. The Eagle can be locked in depth display by pushing the trigger backward.

INSTRUCTIONS

The Eagle comes with a 56 page in-



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EAGLE DETECTOR

struction manual, complete with illustrations. Those experienced with metal detectors should breeze through this and master the unit's multitude of features with ease. (There are even two advanced operator options: heavy-duty bottle cap reject and two quadrant visual discrimination.) Novices will be able to begin searching for valuables quickly using the detector's pre-programed settings.

Additionally, the Eagle's electronic box offers printed-on guides to operation. The top of the box has simple directions to automatic operation on the right and a graph of various metals—and where they usually register in the two digit code—on the left.

The bottom of the electronics box shows simplified directions to programing the discrimination with the Lrn and Edit pads. There is also a breakdown of the three Audio modes and trigger/pinpointing operation.

To be sure that each purchaser of an Eagle starts off right, all authorized White's Electronics dealers are required to be "Eagle trained."

CARE

Care of the Eagle is simple. Never let water contact the electronics box. After use in saltwater, thoroughly rinse the searchcoil and lower extension arm in fresh water. Protect the Eagle from freezing weather and never leave it in the hot sun. Avoid dropping the unit and avoid sharp jars to the searchcoil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Eagle comes with a two year warranty against defects in material or workmanship. It retails for $769.95. A Cordura nylon carrying case is included. Optional head phones range from $12-$39. The Eagle and a host of other metal detectors and accessories are available at your White's dealer. For the address of the one nearest you, contact White's Electronics, Inc., 1011 Pleasant Valley Road, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386. You can telephone toll free at (800) 547-6911 or, in Oregon, call (503) 367-2138.

TWIN SB-103 STROBES

(Continued from Page 15)

DOUBLE FLASH TRAY

Assuming you have decided to purchase two SB-103 strobes (or add a second SB-103), there are just two more items you will need. One is the Nikonos Double Bracket. This 13.25 inch solid cast metal bar allows you to attach twin SB-103 strobes to one Nikonos camera—one strobe on each side. The Double Bracket will work with any model Nikonos

and is especially helpful in macro and close-up photography. It allows you to set up a miniature underwater studio with flash heads firmly fixed at precise angles and distances. The Double Bracket retails for $139.50.

DOUBLE SYNC CORD

The other key item is the Nikonos Double Sync Cord. As mentioned, it allows you to hook up both SB-103 strobes to one camera. The same cord can be used to hook up two SB-102 strobes or one SB-103 and one SB-102.

The Double Sync Cord is fully wired for TTL automatic flash or manual flash. The cord also allows you to shut off one strobe for single flash usage as well. The Double Sync Cord retails for $137.50.

EXTENSION ARM

One more item you may wish to consider is a Nikonos Extension Arm. Although optional, this accessory allows you to extend the distance and angle of one of your SB-103 flash heads. It is especially helpful for top lighting, back lighting and rim lighting. The Extension Arm attaches to the standard flash arm and extends the head 11 inches. The Extension Arm with joint (knuckle) costs $135.

Incidentally, the SB-103 strobe retails for $499.50. While the entire double SB-103 system may at first appear expensive, it eventually pays for itself by producing spectacular photos.

Many prize winning U/W photos are shot with double flash. And, once you master the technique up close, you can apply the same lighting angles to standard wide angle photography. Twin SB-103s are perfect for the Nikonos 20 or 15mm lenses.

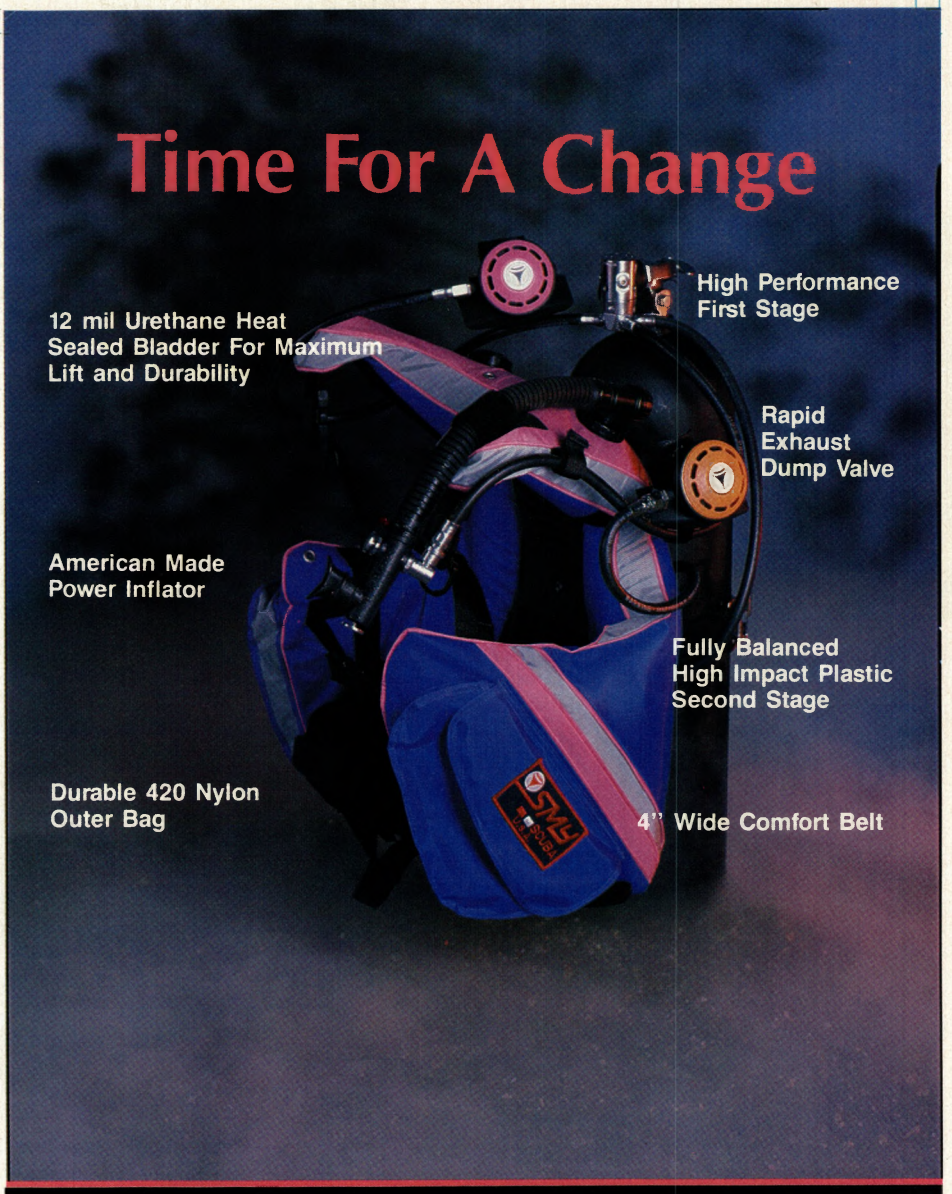
For more information, see your local Nikonos dealer or contact Nikon USA Inc., 623 Stewart Avenue, New York, NY 11530; telephone (516) 222-0200.

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Above: Photo title: Falling for You/Photographer: Russell Gale, Mahant, MA/Photograph submitted by: Ultramarine Divers, Concord, MA

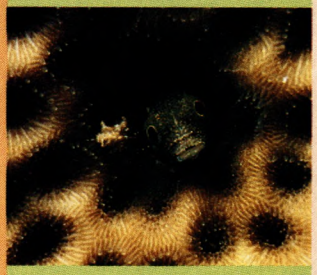


Above: Sergeant Major On Guard/Catherine Gerace, Largo, FL/World of Water, Tampa, FL. Below: Flight of the Turtle/Ken Nutting, Round Rock, TX/Tom's Dive & Ski, Austin, TX





Above: Grand Prize Winner/Title: Aye, Nudibranch/Photographer: James Griffith, Burbank, CA/Photo submitted by: Sport Chalet, La Canada, CA



Left: Good Morning/John Mason, St. Cloud, MN/Central Minnesota Divers, St. Cloud, MN

Below: Mr. and Mrs. Butterfly/Ruth Jacobson, New York, NY/Atlantis 2, New York, NY



PADI PHOTO WINNERS

BY JEFF MONDLE

The winners of the Eighth Annual PADI Underwater Photography Search/Competition have been chosen. Entries from all over the world—including Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway and the United States—created the most competitive and successful photo contest ever. Regional and Grand Prize winners were chosen in judging based on technique, composition and lighting. The Ninth Annual Search/Competition, designed to provide non-professional U/W photographers with the chance to win prizes and publication opportunities, is now underway. Contestants must enter one of the many local contests between August 1 and October 31 at participating PADI training facilities. Local winning slides are then submitted to PADI Headquarters for entry into the international contest for regional judging. Regional winners, in turn, compete for the Grand Prize, which includes a Nikonos V system (compliments of Nikon, Inc.); a deluxe, one week vacation for two on Bonaire (compliments of Peter Hughes Dive Bonaire/Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel & Casino); and round trip air fare from New York or Miami to Bonaire (compliments of ALM). Custom prints from Scuba Chrome are presented to all regional winners. For information contact PADI Photo Search 1987, 1243 East Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705; (714) 540-PADI.

Right: No Place Like Home/Jeff Gutekunst, Longmont, Colorado/ Submitted by: High Co. Divers, Aurora, Colorado

Below: Title: Anemones in Bloom/Gail LaPointe, Troy, MI/Photo submitted by: Pontiac Scuba Ctr., Pontiac, Michigan







Above: Title: Golden Grotto/Photographer: John Butler, Lerstad, Norway/Submitted by: PADI Norway

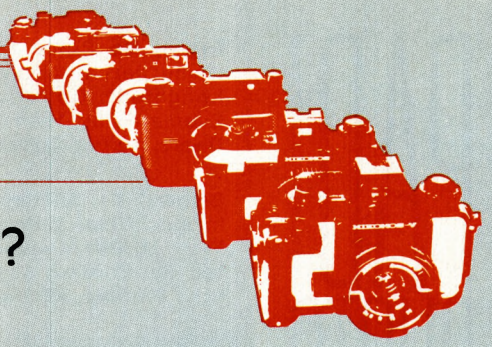




Above: Title: Undersea Potpourri/Photographer: Chris Kienstra, Alton, Illinois/Submitted by: Windwalker Dive & Travel, Belleville, Illinois

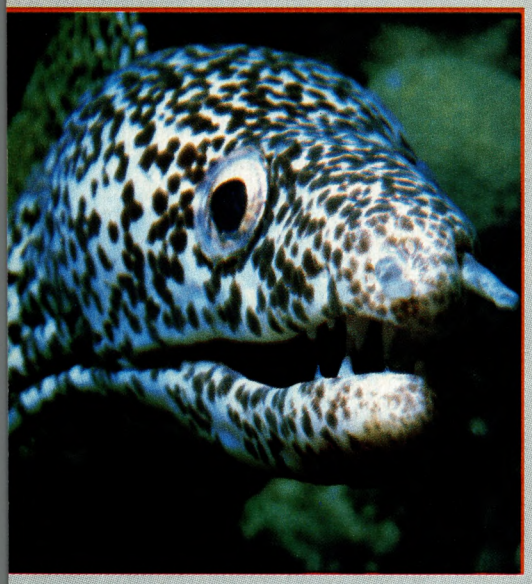
Left: Photo title: Lobster Shadows/Photographer: Bill Streit, Richmond, Virginia/Photo submitted by: The Dive Shop, Richmond, Virginia

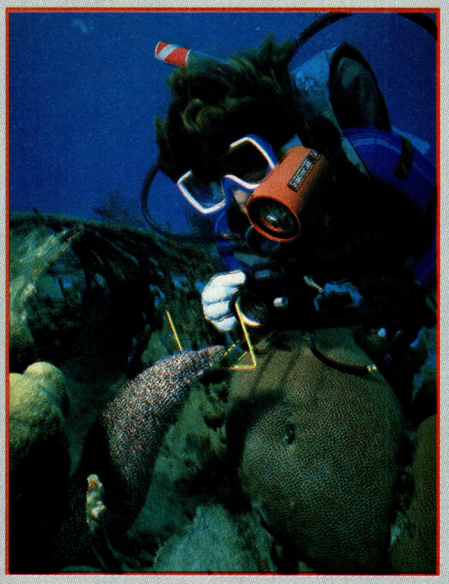
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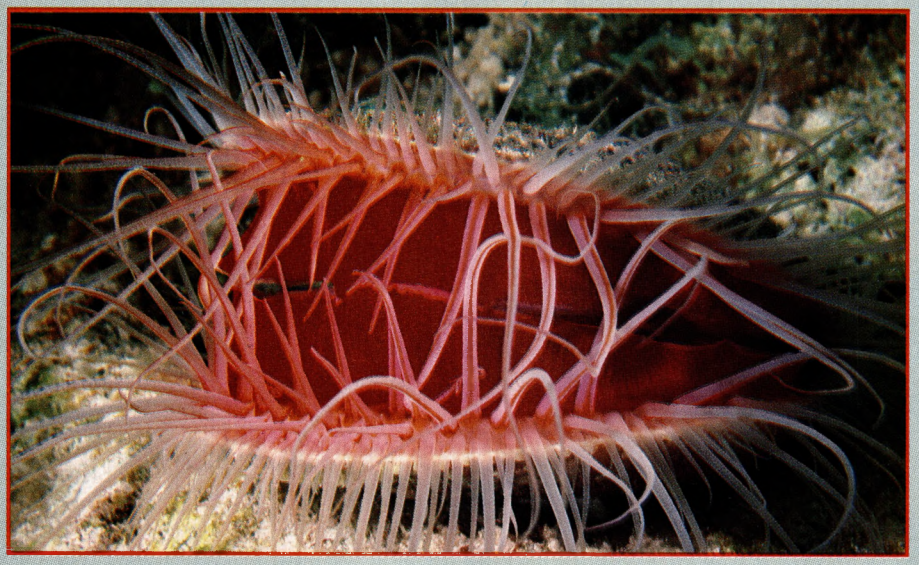


LESSON VII: Why Macro Photography?

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY









Macro photography provides an entirely new perspective of a coral reef. Top: A 1:3 macro shot of a moray eel; positioning an eel in a macro framer. Above: A 1:3 close-up of a colorful file shell. Left: A 1:1 macro photograph of the head of a ruffleback sea slug.

Macro is a specialized form of photography where the camera lens is positioned very close to the subject and records a relatively large image on the film. When the film is then projected on a screen or made into color print enlargements, there is an extremely high magnification of the original subject.

For example, a one inch long shrimp is photographed on slide film with a 1:1 (pronounced one-to-one) macro setup: When this slide is projected on a four foot square screen, magnification is 48-to-1. The result is a four foot long shrimp on the projection screen. Suddenly, the minuscule shrimp has grown to the size of a small dinosaur!

This impressive magnification is achieved by placing an extension tube between the camera body and the lens. A small wire framer is attached to the extension tube and positioned in front of the lens for framing and focus. The camera viewfinder is never used, except for checking TTL flash data.

WHY START WITH MACRO?

You are probably wondering why we have decided to start with macro as your first underwater photography experience. The answer is simple: Macro is the easiest form of underwater photography for the beginning camera enthusiast. In addition, it is one of the most rewarding.

The underwater pictures you obtain from your first few macro sessions will absolutely amaze you. The images will be sharp, the colors vibrant. You will be thrilled with the results.

SEVEN BENEFITS OF MACRO

What makes macro photography so easy and fascinating? There are seven basic benefits of this specialty:

1) A different perspective
2) High magnification
3) Maximum color saturation
4) Exquisite detail in sharp focus
5) Can be done anywhere
6) Easy to learn and easy to do
7) Greatest return for least investment

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Macro provides an entirely different perspective of the coral reef. It opens a whole new world to divers by showing them the "little people" who live on, inside and around the reef. In fact, you can

find an amazing number of little creatures in even the simplest environment, such as an eel grass patch, a rubble bottom or a boat pier.

Most divers swimming over a coral reef do not normally notice these tiny creatures, because the human eye is attracted to the larger objects such as huge brain corals or tall seafans. The small creatures are there, but their minuscule size and natural camouflage prevent easy detection.

Yet, when a diver approaches the same reef with a macro set-up (extension tube and wire framer), a transition takes place. Now the diver becomes a sharp eyed hunter who scans every inch of the bottom, searching for tiny creatures who peek out of crevices or hide under ledges. Every coral head or patch becomes an underwater city filled with thousands of amazing residents.





Above: A top view of a fan worm taken with a 1:2 macro extension tube. Right: An adult arrowcrab photographed with a 1:1 macro tube.

HIGH MAGNIFICATION

The most striking aspect of macro photography is the high magnification. Few divers have ever seen these creatures up close, let alone have them magnified 10 to 50 times their normal size. The result is indeed startling.

This magnification is part of the change in perspective. Macro is much like using a microscope. For example, a full profile photograph of a horse is not unusual. Yet a blow-up photo of the horse's eyeball or nostril would be startling. Both pictures illustrate the same horse but the change of perspective makes one more unusual than the other. Magnification is a powerful tool in photography.

MAXIMUM COLOR SATURATION

Macro offers the richest, brightest colors obtainable in any form of underwater photography. This is owing to two basic factors: strong flash illumination and very little color filtration by water.

In underwater macro, the distance between the camera lens and subject ranges between 2.5 and 7 inches. The distance between strobe and subject is 12 inches or less. Therefore, the light entering the camera lens is virtually unaffected by the color filtration effect of water. You obtain a very high purity of color not normally achieved in other forms of underwater photography.

Since the strobe is held so close to the subject, the lighting is exceptionally bright. The aperture setting on the camera is usually f/22. As a result, the strong light from the flash brings out all of the highlights and color tones. The pictures seem to have a special richness and sparkle not normally seen in longer distance shots.

EXQUISITE DETAIL IN SHARP FOCUS

Another impressive aspect of macro is the exquisite detail and sharp focus of the pictures. Again, this is produced by the bright lighting conditions and the f/22 aperture. The results are often breathtaking—a revelation of exquisite detail.

Macro is by far the best way to appreciate nature's most magnificent works of art. The intricate structure of a banded coral shrimp or the amazing camouflage of a seahorse will often bring "oohs" and "aahs" from the viewing audience.

Many divers who set out to be underwater macro photographers end up also becoming marine biology buffs. Identification of the subject becomes just as important as sharp focus and good composition. You begin to develop an appreciation for reef ecology and the magnificent creatures who populate this world.

CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE

An appealing advantage of macro is that it can be done most anywhere. While standard lens and wide angle photography require good to excellent underwater visibility, turbid conditions are not a problem for macro.

A rule-of-thumb in underwater photography is that visibility should be five times the intended distance between camera and subject. In other words, if you intend

(Continued on Page 50)

Below: An extreme close-up of a wrasse blenny taken with a 2:1 macro tube. Right: Featherduster worms photographed with a 1:3 macro tube.







Sea Bass smorgasbord

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY HERB SEGARS

Along the East Coast of the United States, a multitude of rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean. These tidal areas are the birthing ground for a myriad of marine life. Tiny mussels develop into huge colonies that carpet the river from bank to bank. Algae grows along the fringes of the mussel beds and among the bivalves. These tiny inhabitants of the marine community are the staples for many types of marine life, including sea bass. Life flourishes here!

Late summer brings an influx of juvenile sea bass, which have an insatiable curiosity. Initially, they dart from rock to rock, scrambling for safety when an intruder such as a diver invades their domain. Spurred by their natural curiosity, they soon reappear to size up this monster from another world. As the feeling of safety overcomes them, juvenile sea bass become constant companions throughout the dive.

The wariness of the Atlantic marine life chain in general makes photography an exhausting and often fruitless endeavor. The juvenile sea bass is certainly the exception. Enticing a baby sea bass into the wires of a macro framer is as simple as stirring up the sandy bottom so the fish might find a tasty morsel thrown adrift into the water column. While preoccupied, it hardly realizes the crafty photographer has snapped its picture.

Unfortunately, as things must be, sea bass grow up and the photographic opportunities diminish drastically. As they mature, these fish move out to inhabit local shipwrecks where the juvenile's natural curiosity is transformed into a high awareness of uncommon danger signals. Spearfishermen must hone their skills to bring home this tasty seafood delight on a regular basis.

The sea bass has a wide distribution, ranging from Florida to Cape Cod with an occasional straggler found as far north as Maine. Underwater structures and obstructions are important to their well being as this fish is usually found around rocky jetties, on rocky bottoms, near piers and wharves and on shipwrecks. It inhabits water with depths ranging from only a few feet to more than 400. Sea bass are brown, dark gray or blue-black in color, can reach a length of two feet and may attain a weight of eight pounds—in contrast to other game fish on the East Coast such as blackfish (tautog), which reach

(Continued on Page 96)

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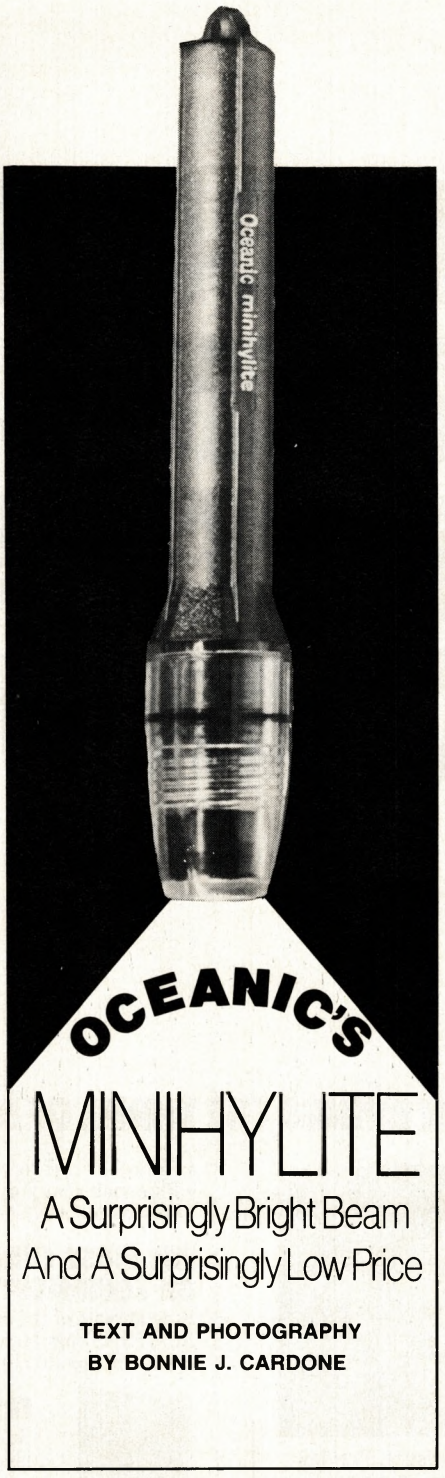
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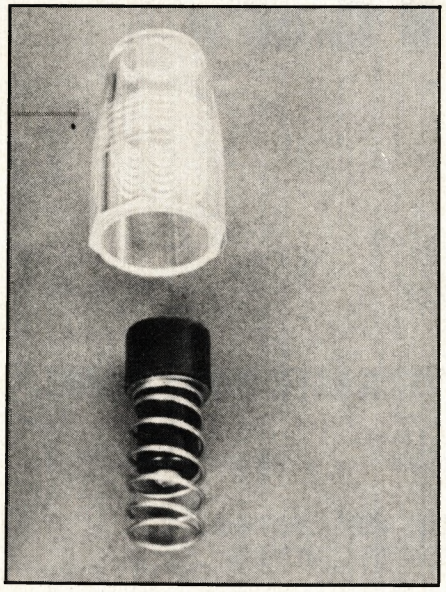
OCEANIC'S MINIHYLITE

A Surprisingly Bright Beam And A Surprisingly Low Price

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

It's so tiny it looks like a toy. But, turn it on, see how bright it is and you'll know the MiniHylite was not designed for children. Only four and three-quarters inches long, this little light puts out a surprisingly bright beam—up to 400 percent brighter than that of ordinary pocket flashlights, according to Oceanic. This is because it uses a special bulb that contains xenon gas. This allows the filament to burn hotter, producing a brighter beam. Although a hotter burning filament usually shortens bulb life, this is not the case with this special bulb. According to Oceanic the MiniHylite's bulb should provide about 20 hours of use.

The MiniHylite was designed to fit into the holster on top of the Datamaster II digital dive computer. Thus positioned, it is easy to remove and use. If you don't have a Datamaster, carry the MiniHylite in a BC pocket or attached to the cord of your BC whistle. There it is easily accessible for either topside or or underwater use in any low light situation. The light is so bright and so easy to carry it also makes an excellent backup for your larger dive light.



Only four and three-quarters inches long and one-half inch in diameter, the MiniHylite has a xenon gas bulb that produces a very bright beam. Two AAA Duracell alkaline batteries come with the light. It turns on when the lens cap is screwed down.

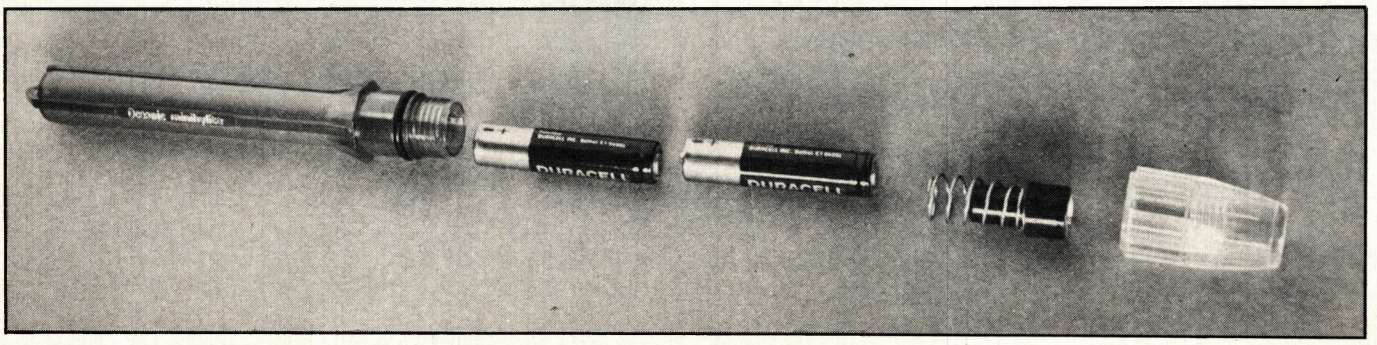
The MiniHylite is powered by two AAA alkaline cells, which have a burn time of about two hours. Most dive stores do not carry batteries and if you buy a dive light in one of them, you have to get the batteries someplace else. Through a special arrangement with Duracell, however, each MiniHylite comes with batteries. The whole package sells for just $11.95. Replacement bulb/reflector assemblies retail for $2.95.

The diameter of the MiniHylite is just one-half inch. According to the manufacturer, as a result of its compact shape the light is pressure resistant to 2,000 feet. We'll have to take Oceanic's word for it, this is one claim SKIN DIVER has no intention of testing!

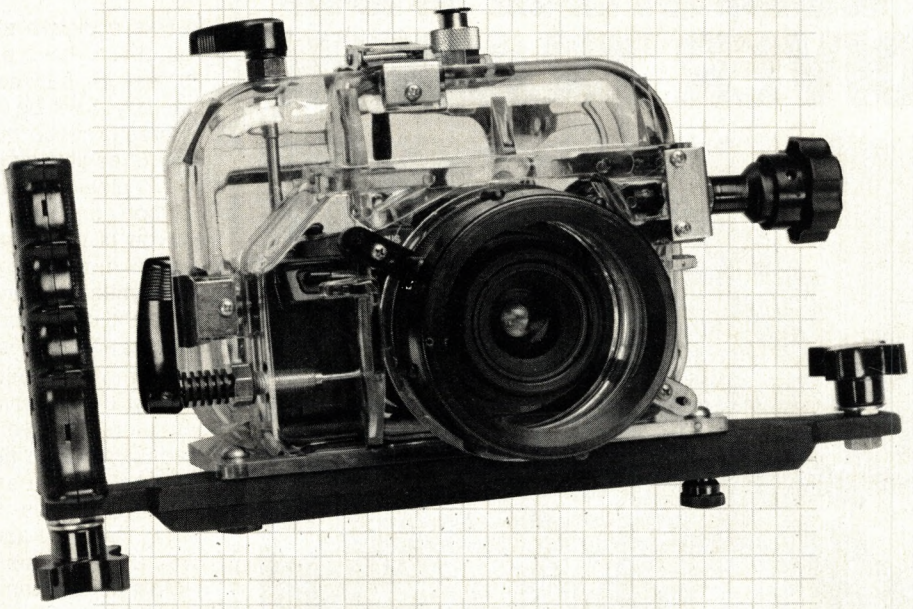
Not including the batteries, the MiniHylite breaks down into five components: an O-ring sealed body, lens cap, leaf clip and bulb/reflector with coil spring. It is easy to assemble and disassemble. The only maintenance needed is a rinse in freshwater when the dive day is over and an occasional cleaning and lubricating (with silicone grease) of the O-ring (clean the O-ring groove at the same time). If the leaf clip falls out when you're replacing the batteries, note that it fits into a groove on the lip of the body.

The MiniHylite is turned on by screwing down the lens cap. Reverse this procedure to turn it off. Although this can be done with just a one-quarter twist, a full twist is recommended so it does not activate accidentally.

The MiniHylite is little light with a surprisingly bright beam and an equally surprising low price. See it at your Oceanic dealer.



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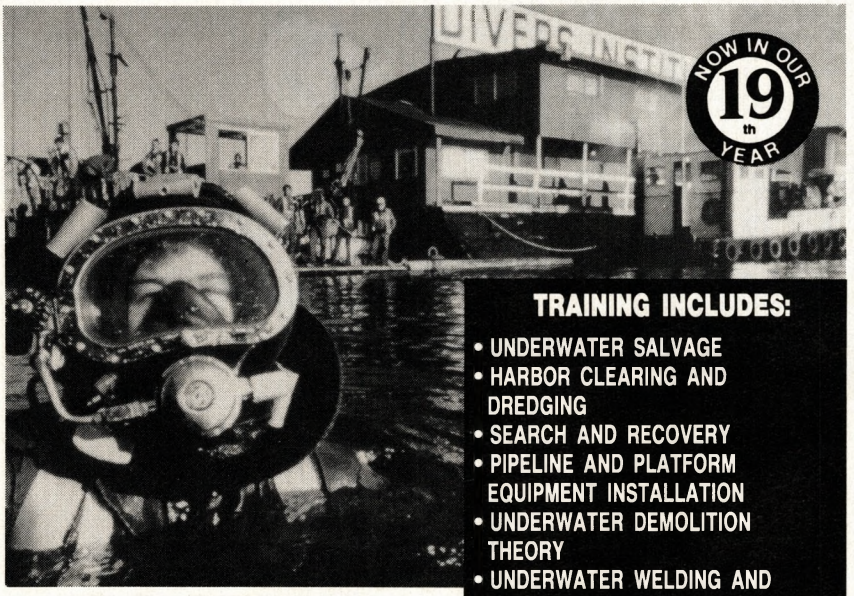
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NIKONOS COURSE

(Continued from Page 45)

to take a picture at a distance of 5 feet you should have a minimum visibility of 25 feet for halfway decent pictures. In macro, you will be operating at a distance of three to seven inches. Underwater visibility of as little as two feet will still allow you to obtain good images.

When conditions get murky and no other type of photography is possible, you will find most U/W photographers resorting to macro. In addition, macro is ideal for night diving because of the preset controls and simplistic framing and focus.

The most attractive aspect of macro is its simplicity. All camera controls are preset before the dive. There is no need for readjustment, no need for complex calculations. It is basically a "point and shoot" technique. Probably the hardest part of the entire activity is finding a creature and setting up the shot.

Most people can learn to shoot macro pictures in three dives or less and the pictures they obtain are often good enough for presentation in a slide show.

Now this does not mean you become an instant expert overnight. The skills of macro photography can be a life-long pursuit. However, you can achieve good pictures very quickly and improve your techniques steadily.

Macro photography is easy because the equipment is so simple and compact. The camera and small strobe will not inhibit your swimming nor cause any diving hardship. You don't need to carry a lot of bulky equipment or extra accessories.

Last but not least, macro photography is comparatively inexpensive. It requires the least investment and the least number of accessories.

The standard Nikonos V camera is just fine and the standard 35mm lens is well suited for macro work. The only other lens that can be used with the camera for macro is the 28mm.

As for flash, a small, compact underwater strobe is the most desirable. Generally speaking, these smaller strobes are much less expensive than the large, wide angle models. A TTL model is nice but not mandatory. You can produce excellent macro photos with a non-TTL strobe if budget is a consideration.

The only special accessories required for macro work are the extension tubes and wire framers. You will need a basic selection of two to three sizes for handling all situations, but you can get started with just one if necessary.

The point here is that macro photography offers you the greatest possible return for the least investment. You will get the sharpest and most colorful pictures, and the greatest satisfaction in the shortest period of time.

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Photo by James Griffith, Burbank, CA
1986 Grand Prize Winner

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Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



We all know that a sport diver is someone who goes underwater for recreation rather than for remuneration. On the other hand, almost no one can agree on what constitutes polluted water, or how much and what kind of contamination causes water to be harmfully polluted. This is particularly true for divers who are immersed in the water, sometimes for hours—rather than simply exposed briefly as topside persons might be—and who also might ingest or aspirate some of the water. It should be emphasized that oceans, lakes and rivers offer thousands of miles of contamination-free diving. But, some of those miles will have contaminated "hot spots" that might be hazardous to a diver.

I would like to also stress strongly that any potentially polluted water should be avoided if at all possible. One of the best things about sport diving is that we do it because we want to, not because we have to.

The subject of environmental pollution is much too extensive and complex to deal with completely in Technifacts. This column, and the one to follow, are designed solely to identify some of the kinds of water pollution and the places they may be encountered; why they should be avoided; and to suggest methods and types of equipment that must be used if a diver has to enter those waters.

WHAT IS POLLUTION?

The word pollution has many connotations and implications: defilement, impurity, desecration and uncleanliness, to mention some. These words, and others, are often used interchangeably, and sometimes wrongly, to describe real or imaginary environmental effects. The definition of pollution I like best is one used frequently by ecologists. It is: "Contamination of a habitat with substances that make it less favorable for organisms."

But even this simple and straightforward definition can sometimes pose apparent problems, simply because what is less favorable or even deadly to some forms of life can be a boon for others. For example, freshwater runoff kills shallow water corals while producing an abundance of algae. I once studied such an impacted area for many years and watched the ecosystem change from one with a moderate population of carnivores to a nearly overpopulated, completely herbivorous community. There were, of course, predator carnivores, including divers, that invaded the area to feed on

(Continued on Page 56)

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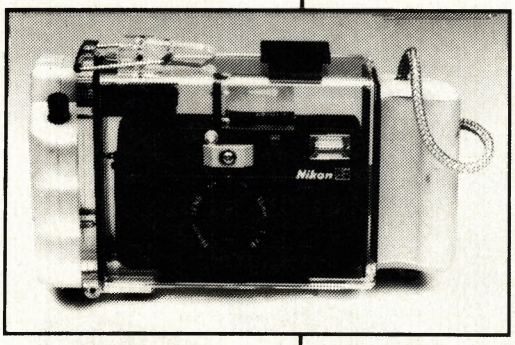
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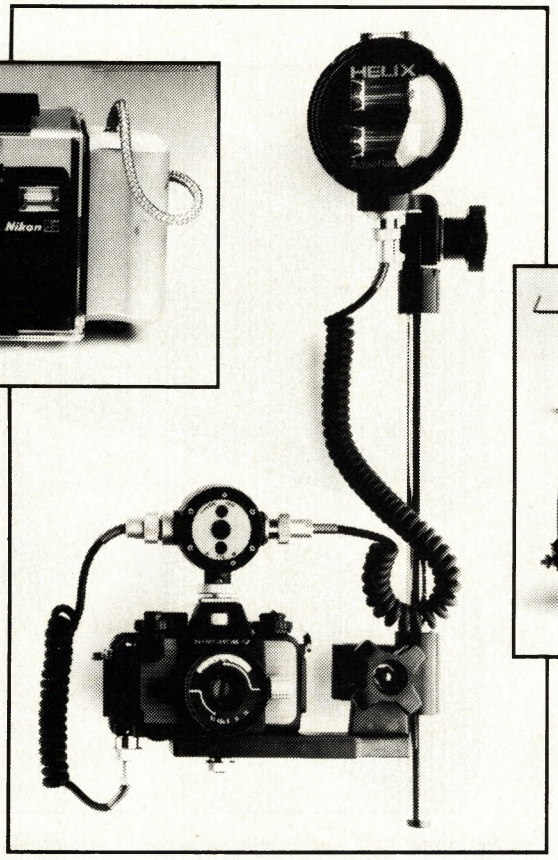


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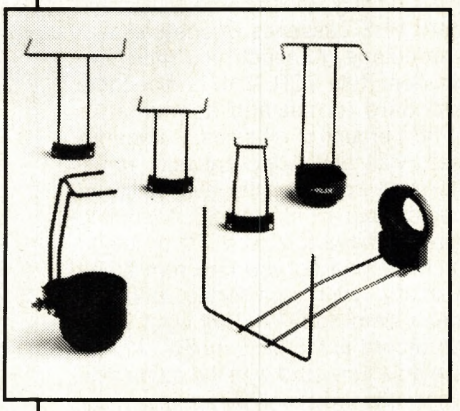
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SDM'S

U/W Video Course

Choosing A Videotape Format

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH

Choosing the "best" videotape format may force you to look both backward and forward—at what equipment you already own and intend to keep and what equipment you may want in the future.

THE VHS STANDARD

At this writing, most home VCRs use standard VHS cassettes of one-half inch wide videotape. Although you may own an excellent Beta VCR, VHS has become the standard format and accounts for about 80 percent of all sales. To see for yourself, visit any video cassette rental counter and compare the availability of VHS and Beta rental tapes. Assuming you already have a VHS VCR, or intend to purchase one so you can rent tapes more easily, your tape format decision has been simplified: You will want to be able to record in the VHS format. And, if you are able to record with the same size tape cassette you will insert into your VCR, you can view first-generation tapes.

The standard VHS cassette gives you two hours of recording time at SP (standard play) with a T-120 tape. While you can get four hours at LP (long play) or six hours at SLP (super long play), SP produces better picture and sound quality. It's great being able to shoot two hours of U/W video without having to change cassettes, but the long recording time has a price: The standard cassette is bulky.

A few years ago, choosing the standard VHS format meant you had to house both a video camera and a VCR. This usually required bulky housings that weighed 50 or more pounds in air. If you've ever stuffed a video camera, detachable electronic viewfinder, VCR, nickel-cadmium battery pack and all the necessary wires and cords inside a 12 inch diameter housing, while carefully aligning the control rods, you know the meaning of frustration. But that was only lesson one. Lesson two is carrying the heavy housing to the boat or shore.

Linda Harrison, an accomplished U/W photographer, told us how excited she was while shooting her first U/W video a few years ago. The housed camera/VCR system used full-sized Beta one-half inch tape and weighed about 90 pounds in air, not counting the battery packs on her waist for the light. She said the system was hard to handle in any kind of current or surge, that buoyancy control was difficult at first and that she churned up clouds of sand during her first video shoot. Some U/W videographers may prefer such a large system because they like the image quality their camera and VCR produce or simply because the system is paid for.



The full sized VHS videotape cassette is significantly larger than the 8mm cassette (right) or the VHS-C cassette (left). The 35mm film box is shown for size comparison.

When camcorders that accepted the standard VHS cassettes appeared, the size and weight of the camera/housing package was reduced considerably. Now, for the first time, U/W videographers could use full-sized cassettes of one-half inch VHS (or Beta) tape with reasonably compact equipment. Linda would have been thrilled, we're sure, but these systems were still too heavy and bulky for many potential users.

ENTER COMPACT VHS

VHS-C cassettes, about the size of a deck of playing cards, hold enough one-half inch tape for 20 minutes of recording time (or longer in extended play modes). While compact cassettes could be used with a compact VCR housed with a video camera, the advent of miniature camcorders designed for use with VHS-C cassettes is the real breakthrough. The JVC GR-C7 Videomovie camcorder, for example, allows both recording and playback of VHS-C cassettes. This miniature (2.9 pounds) camcorder, as well as the other brands with similar features that are appearing on the market, are worth considering. The VHS-C cassette can be placed inside a special adapter—the size of a standard VHS cassette—for recording or playback in any standard VHS VCR. Thus, if you already have a substantial investment in a VHS VCR and accessories, the VHS-C will fit right into your system. The main disadvantage of VHS-C, however, is the reduced recording time of 20 minutes in the SP mode.

8MM EDGES IN

Approximately the size of an audio tape cassette, 8mm videotape cassettes are the smallest videotape format available in the U.S. at this writing. The most obvious advantage of the 8mm format is that 8mm camcorders (and their U/W housings) can be made even smaller. Divers who shunned larger, more expen-

sive systems are jumping on the 8mm bandwagon. As for the quality of 8mm videos, we've shot both 8mm and one-half inch VHS of the same subjects while diving from *Aggressor II* and couldn't tell the difference when the tapes were played on the boat's 24 inch TV. We can't say, however, that all 8mm videos will always equal or be superior to video movies shot on one-half inch tape, but we can say that 8mm is a potent rival.

Standardization is another 8mm advantage: While Beta and VHS fought it out in the one-half inch tape format, 127 video companies have agreed to worldwide 8mm specifications. Thus, camcorders, 8mm cassettes and 8mm VCRs of any manufacturer should be compatible. At this writing, 8mm tape has a special metallic coating that produces higher recording density for better picture quality and even newer metal coatings are on the way. Hi-fi sound is standard on all 8mm camcorders and VCRs so the sound quality of 8mm is better than that of some one-half inch systems. However, if advanced technology for superior tape coatings, sound systems and other electronic components are available for 8mm systems, won't these advances soon appear in one-half inch machines? Also, more editing and titling equipment and other accessories are on the way for 8mm video.

Until recently, most manufacturers tooled up for the Sony Handycam. While the Sony put U/W video into the hands of many divers, it was essentially a point and shoot system. You aimed with a framefinder or by simply looking at the subject over the top of the housing. Now, the latest Sony Handycam and the 8mm camcorders of other companies have electronic viewfinders and other features that were previously only available on one-half inch tape camcorders. While it is difficult to predict which format will be the most popular, 8mm or VHS-C, the small camcorders are definitely the trend of the future for sport divers.

TAPE BRANDS AND GRADES

Not only are there several brands of videotapes on the market, but each is usually available in different grades. Thus, the question is obvious: Do videotapes differ in quality?

After reading countless test reports and viewing several tapes, we can say that different videotapes can produce differences in both picture and sound quality. The difference, however, may not be as great as you might expect. The quality of both the recording and playback equipment also affects picture and sound quality.

We suggest purchasing one cassette of expensive high grade tape and making a test recording of a subject area with wide ranges of both brightness and colors. You might be able to do this in your backyard with colorful props. Then repeat the test with a less expensive tape. If you see a difference that justifies the higher priced tape, buy it.



Above: This compact AquaVideo housing accommodates the early Sony Handycam utilizing 8mm videotape. Below: Most modern underwater housings for video systems are designed for easy operation of controls and reduced drag underwater.



CHOOSING A TAPE FORMAT

Begin by seeing what video cameras housing manufacturers recommend. They are highly competitive and try to house the video cameras best suited for U/W use. Most housing manufacturers are, or soon will be, offering housings for both VHS-C and 8mm camcorders. Also, think about what video equipment you already have and what new accessories you will need to buy.

Should you postpone your buying decision until better tape formats appear? If you always wait for next year's model, you'll never start shooting U/W video. Unless the manufacturer assures you the new model will be in your hands within a reasonable time, buy today's model today and worry about next year's model next year.



The videotape format affects the size of the system. This Ikelite housing holds a camcorder utilizing full sized VHS tape.

FUTURE VIDEOTAPES

Super VHS, an improved system that requires an improved tape in standard cassettes, should produce up to 430 lines of horizontal resolution, whereas current VHS cameras offer 230 to 240 lines of resolution. Thus, the picture quality of the new one-half inch VHS system should rival that of one inch systems now in use.

The VHS cassettes will be notched to program the VCR for the type of tape used, Super VHS or standard VHS, as well as the tape length. The new VCRs will play either Super or standard VHS tapes; the older, standard VCRs will only play standard VHS tapes. Thus, changing to Super VHS means buying a new VCR. We don't know when Super VHS will be available.

The next trend may be Samsung's new 4mm camcorder that will use 4mm digital audio tape (DAT) packaged in a tiny 0.3 by 2 by 1.3 inch cassette. Distribution of 4mm products will begin in Korea during 1987 and may begin in the U.S. in 1988. The 4mm camcorder should have an electronic viewfinder, variable focus and zoom lens. We have no other information at this time.

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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 52)

the abundant herbivores. However, it was not entirely the fresh water that caused the proliferation of algae. Tests indicated an assortment of chemical and mineral contaminants that were desirable nutrients to the algae. So, was the area polluted or was it simply changed?

ELEMENTS OF POLLUTION

Some of the more likely and potentially hazardous elements of pollution, as far as divers are concerned, are municipal wastes (sewage); industrial wastes; infectious agents; plant nutrients; organic pesticides; and, rarely, hot or radioactive water. Contaminants present in some situations that would probably affect only the health of the diver, and probably team members, are contagious diseases.

It should be stressed that the effects of ecological contaminants are usually considered harmful depending on exposure time and on the concentration of the contaminant. This is not necessarily true in the case of divers using conventional scuba equipped with a mouthpiece rather than a full facemask. With mouthpiece equipped regulators there is a strong possibility of ingesting or aspirating some of the contaminated water. Also, cuts or even minor abrasions could be a site for immediate exposure to contaminants. It follows that, if a diver could be completely insulated from the diving environment, there would be a greatly reduced potential for adverse effects. More on this in next month's Technifacts.

MUNICIPAL WASTES

Two thousand years ago the people of Rome developed a system of disposal of raw human waste. They ran the waste water into open and closed ditches, then into the Tiber River and so to the Tyrrhenian Sea. In most developed countries disposal processes have improved since then but ultimately whatever is left is dumped or pumped into some body of water, usually the sea or a river and ultimately the sea. In undeveloped countries, and some quasi-developed areas where a significant amount of dive tourism is conducted, disposal of sewage is as primitive as in ancient Rome.

In most urbanized areas of the United States, well engineered sewage systems provide one to several stages of treatment prior to disposal. The aquatic environment in sewers and in waste treatment plants is hostile to most pathogenic organisms that might be harmful to divers. Further, relatively simple bacteriological procedures can be used to determine

(Continued on Page 61)

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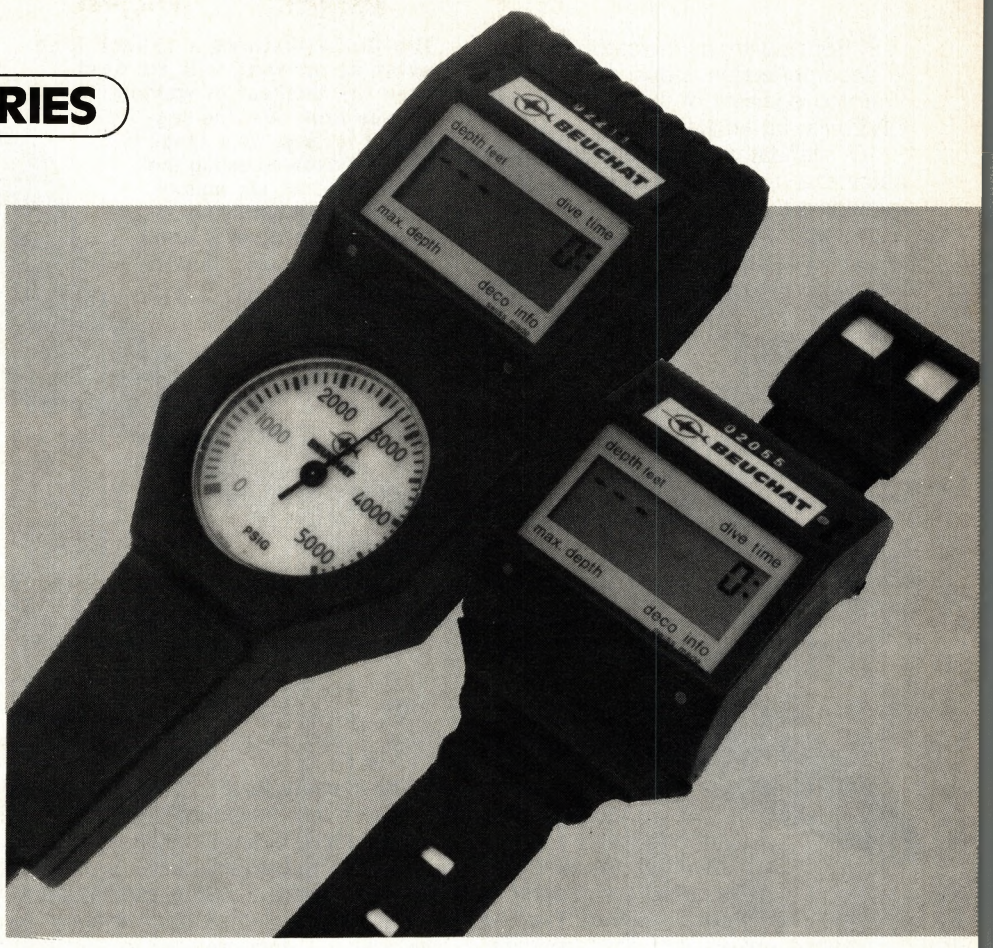
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THE G.U.I.D.E.

Beuchat's Swiss Made Dive Computer

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

This year, Beuchat of Fort Lauderdale, Florida has brought to the American diving market a compact instrument that serves as a depth gauge, dive timer and decompression computer. It can be used for deep dives, repetitive dives or simply as a safe no-decompression guide. In fact, it is named the Guide and is likely to become the diver's trusty companion.

DEVELOPMENT

The Guide was originally developed in Switzerland by the Uwatec Company. Uwatec produces the same instrument under the name Aladin.

The Guide's decompression calculations are based on the research work of a Swiss scientist, Dr. A.A. Buehlmann. Based on 12 different tissue half-times, the no-decompression and decompression tables adopt a wide safety margin suitable for use by sport divers rather than military divers.

And, because Swiss sport divers spend a good deal of their time diving in high mountain lakes, this particular computer also incorporates a special set of four different decompression tables for high altitude diving. It will accurately calculate decompression time in mountain lakes up to two and one-half miles high! As with many of today's dive computers, the Guide calculates remaining no-decompression and decompression on a multi-level dive profile. It checks the depth every one-half second, entering it in its complex decompression computations.

CONSTRUCTION

Striving for simplicity of operation, the Swiss have designed the Guide to be as compact as possible, and provide only that information a diver requires at any given time. The result is a tough little instrument that can endure the rigors of the rough and tumble underwater environment.

The Guide is totally encapsulated in a tough plastic case measuring three inches long, two and one-half inches wide and one inch high. The case is curved to fit snugly on a diver's wrist or forearm. The case features an extra wide rubber strap—15 inches long, including case—with a giant buckle. This is more than sufficient to fit over the thickest of wet or drysuits. The Guide is so lightweight (six ounces) you hardly realize you are wearing it.

The Guide has no exterior switches, levers or knobs. It is completely self-contained and functions automatically once activated. This is done by simply touching two electrical contacts on the front of the case with moistened fingers before jumping into the water.

The liquid crystal display (LCD) window of the Guide measures 1.85 inches long and .75 inch high. It can display two rows of numbers and letters in six grouped areas. Labels for these various display areas are etched in the frame around the outside of the LCD window, thus allowing for larger numbers on the screen.

The Guide is powered by a special 3.6 volt lithium battery (LR-07), which has a shelf life of five years. The manufacturer estimates the battery will provide enough power for 800 hours of diving. The battery lasts so long because the Guide utilizes energy efficient second generation microchips.

The Guide is available in three different versions; a wrist model and two consoles. The wrist model contains the dive computer only, while the console version contains both the computer and a pressure gauge molded into one case—or those two instruments plus a compass. The Guide carries a one year guarantee against malfunction or design defects.

14 FUNCTION COMPUTER

The Guide is a no-frills computer that provides its user with the essential information for conducting a dive. Here is a list of the 14 basic functions of this compact dive computer:

1) Wet contact activation above the surface of the water.

2) Automatic activation at a depth of four feet.

3) Current depth from 4 to 315 feet.

4) Maximum depth reached, when this is three feet deeper than the current depth.

5) Elapsed dive time while deeper than four feet.

6) Remaining no-decompression time at specific depth.

7) Flashing decompression warning.

8) Decompression stop indicator—stops from 10 to 80 feet at sea level.

9) Bends warning indicator (flashing) if decompression stops are ignored. Warning consists of the flashing word DIVE with an arrow pointing down.

10) Mandatory surface interval indicator that remains on screen for 10 minutes after surfacing.

11) Surface interval counter.

12) Automatic altitude mode, with four separate altitude sections ranging from 2,470 to 13,200 feet.

13) Recall of last five dives for logbook reference.

14) Low battery warning.

The Guide features a 15 inch long wrist strap that will fit over even the thickest of wetsuit sleeves worn over the largest of wrists. The large buckle makes adjusting the strap easy. At six ounces, the Guide will hardly be noticed on the diver's arm.



OPERATION

While the Guide is easy to read and totally automatic, it is important for the user to read the instructions for operation. Every dash and every number has an important meaning and some of the display will not make sense unless you have read the instructions completely.

As with any dive computer, the Guide moves through a series of display screens, closely following the progress of your dive profile. We will review this natural progression describing each screen:

Off Mode: In this mode the LCD screen is completely blank, indicating the Guide is off. If activated and no dive is made, the computer will shut itself off in 10 minutes to conserve the battery.

Activation Mode: The computer can be activated by either being immersed in water briefly or by touching the two electrical contacts with moistened fingertips. The two contacts that switch on the Guide are on the right side, above and below the LCD screen. The screen will immediately switch to a display showing three dashes on the left side and a zero followed by a colon on the right. This indicates the computer is on and ready to use.

Error Mode: If the diver jumps into the water without first activating the Guide, the atmospheric pressure will probably not be read correctly and the LCD screen will show an Err display. This indicates the computer was not properly turned on and will not function for the dive. The error can be easily corrected by simply returning to the surface and exposing the Guide to air for one to two seconds.

Dive Mode: Once the diver descends four feet below the surface, the LCD screen will automatically switch to a Dive Display. In the upper left corner the current depth (in feet) will appear. It will indicate depths down to 315 feet.

The display in the lower left corner indicates the maximum depth reached during the dive. It will only be displayed when the maximum depth is at least three feet more than the current depth.

The display in the upper right corner records the dive time up to 999 minutes (more than 16.6 hours). A colon to the right of the dive time flashes every second, indicating the clock is running.

No-Decompression Mode: When in the normal no-decompression mode, the computer's deco info display in the lower right corner will show the remaining dive time for that specific depth. The display will be a dash followed by a number. In other words, a —22 would indicate 22 minutes remaining for a safe no-decompression dive.

If you are diving in shallow water (30 feet or less) you are likely to see a display of —99. This indicates a remaining dive time that is longer than the 99 minute capability of the display.

Decompression Mode: If the diver exceeds the limits of the no-decompression tables, the LCD screen will immediately switch to a new decompression display. All information (depth, max depth, dive time) will be the same, but the deco information will show a flashing DEC indicating decompression is required.

The flashing DEC will alternate with a flashing number such as 10, 20 or 30. The number indicates the depth of the first decompression stop required. Thus, a flashing 20 tells the diver to ascend to 20 feet and decompress. When the computer switches to a flashing numeral 10 the diver should ascend to 10 feet and stop.

If dives deeper than 115 feet are made, the computer may indicate some surprisingly deep decompression stops of 40 or 50 feet. In dives to extreme depths for very long times, the Guide could show the first decompression stop at 80 feet.

Above: The Guide is contoured to fit snugly against the diver's wrist or forearm. Below: The battery chamber contains a 3.6 volt lithium cell that has a five year shelf life and enough power for 800 hours.



Bends Warning Mode: Should the diver ignore the computer's decompression instructions, a bends warning signal will appear in the lower center of the LCD screen. The warning consists of the flashing word DIVE with a downward pointing arrow next to it.

If this warning appears, the diver must immediately go to the decompression stop indicated by the flashing DEC display. Failure to do so could result in a decompression accident.

Surface Interval Mode: When the

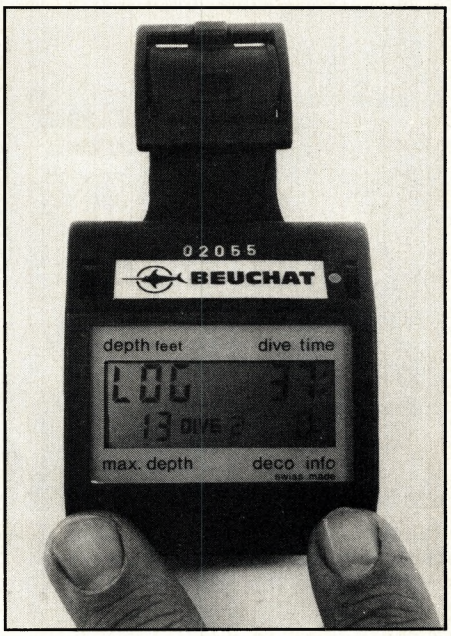
diver has finished a dive and has surfaced, the LCD screen will switch to a Surface Interval Display. The max depth and accrued dive time displays will remain, but the depth and deco info will both show three dashes. In the deco info display, the dashes will be followed by a blinking colon.

The LCD screen will remain in this display for 10 minutes—the mandatory requirement for a surface interval. Then the three dashes in the upper right corner will be replaced by a SUR display indicating the computer is now calculating surface interval time.

Logbook Mode: The Guide has the ability to recall the previous five dives made. These are held in memory until replaced by new dives. They can be recalled as early as 10 minutes after surfacing or months later.

The logbook display is activated by first switching on the Guide. Either immerse it in water briefly or touch the two electrical contacts (on the right side) with moistened fingertips. Then, simultaneously touch the two electrical



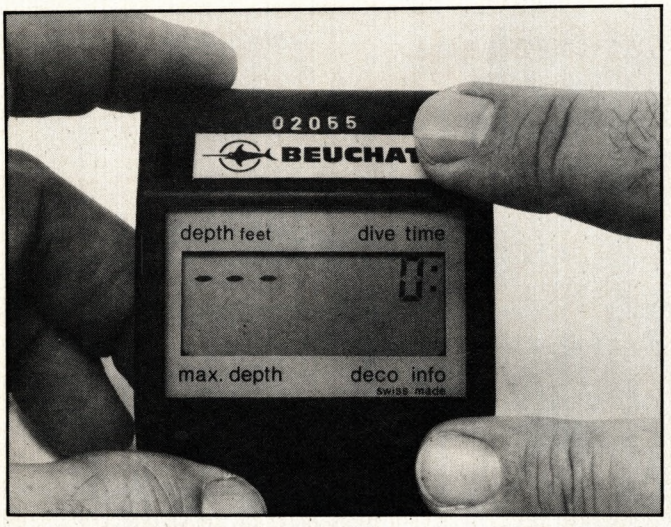


The guide is completely automatic and has no knobs or switches. Electrical contacts are used to switch it on. The Guide can recall the five previous dives. Recall activation is achieved by touching the two electrical contacts below the LCD screen.

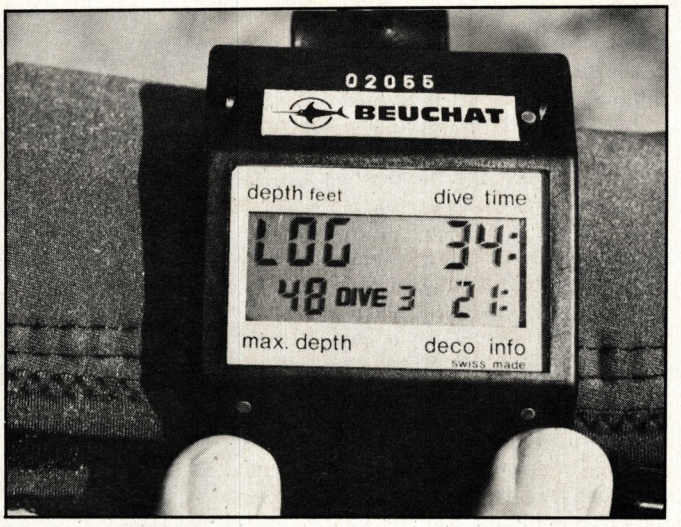
COMPARISON OF NO-DECOMPRESSION LIMITS

DEPTH (feet)	U.S. NAVY (minutes)	DATAMASTER II (minutes)	EDGE (minutes)	SME-ML (minutes)	GUIDE (minutes)***
30	NL	220	234*	215	NL
35	310	160	NDD	NDD	NDD
40	200	120	136	132	125
50	100	70	77	74	75
60	60	50	53	53	51
70	50	40	40	38	35
80	40	30	31	29	25
90	30	25	24	23	20
100	25	20	19	18	17
110	20	15	13	13	14
120	15	10	11	11	12
130	10	5	9	9	10
140	10	0	7	7	9
150	5	0	7	6	DR
160	5	0	6	5	DR
170	5	0	5	4	DR
180	5	0	**	4	DR

DR = Decompression Required
NDD = Next Deeper Depth
NL = No Limit
* = Certain times will vary slightly according to conditions
** = The EDGE cannot be used below 170 feet
*** = A one minute stop at 10 feet is recommended at the end of every dive



The Guide is turned on when the user touches the two electrical contacts on the right of the LCD screen. (The fingertips should be moistened.) It must be activated before beginning the dive.



When in logbook mode, the Guide can recall the depth, total bottom time, number of dives and prior surface interval time (if there is any). These are clearly displayed on the LCD screen.

contacts below the screen.

Once activated, the LCD screen will display a LOG. Press the contacts again, and the screen will switch to DIVE 1, indicating the max depth, total dive time and preceding surface interval time. If it was a single (or first) dive, the deco info will show zero.

When the two bottom electrical contacts are pressed again, the LCD screen will display DIVE 2. Press again, and it goes to DIVE 3 and so on. The computer's ability to recall allows the diver to conveniently log all of the day's diving at one time. Note that a dive is only stored if it was deeper than four feet and longer than three minutes.

Altitude Diving Mode: The Guide is one of the few computers that can be used for high altitude diving. It will function at four altitude zones:

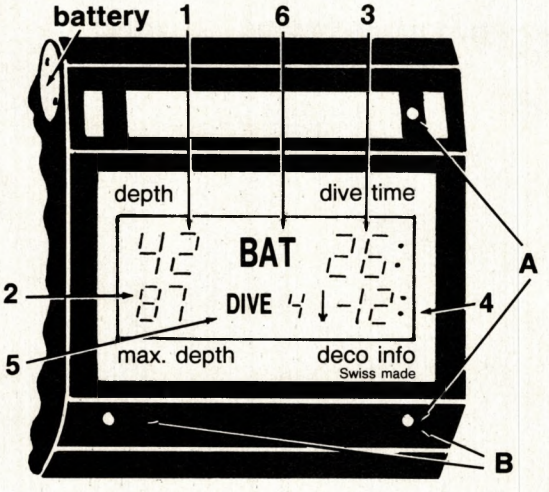
A0 zone:	Sea level to 2,470 feet
A1 zone:	2,470 feet to 5,100 feet
A2 zone:	5,100 feet to 8,555 feet
A3 zone:	8,555 feet to 13,200 feet

The A0 zone is never displayed on the Guide's LCD screen since this is the normal sea level operating range of the computer.

Once the diver ascends to an altitude greater than 2,470 feet above sea level, the altitude zone will be displayed in the lower left corner of the Guide's LCD screen where maximum depth is located. An A1 display would indicate you are diving at an altitude somewhere between 2,470 and 5,100 feet above sea level. The switch in dive tables is completely automatic.

DIFFERENCES FROM U.S. NAVY TABLES

Needless to say, the Swiss dive tables for the Guide computer are far different than the standard U.S. Navy tables. First, they are more conservative on no-decompression time limits.



The Guide displays: (1) Current depth (in feet); SUR, LOG or Err appear in this area, depending on mode. (2) Maximum depth (in feet) or altitude zone indicated here, depending on mode. (3) Dive time. (4) Remaining dive time or depth of first decompression stop shown here. (5) Number of dive recalled or flashing bends warning appear here. (6) Low battery warning. (A) Guide activation contacts. (B) Logbook activation contacts.

The recommended rate of ascent is very conservative. At 33 feet per minute, the Guide is one of the slowest ascending dive computers on the market:

USN	Datamaster II	Edge	SME-ML	Guide
60 ft./min.	60 ft./min.	40 ft./min.	33 ft./min.	33 ft./min.

Both the slow ascent rate and conservative limits are owing to the cold water conditions found in Swiss lake diving. The tables are very safe and excellent for high altitude diving.

CONCLUSION

In our open water testing, the Guide proved to be a hardy dive computer that performed flawlessly under all conditions encountered. It is well built, easy to wear and easy to use.

While this computer may not sport the bells and whistles of other models, it does provide all the essential data for safe diving. The Guide is designed for simplicity.

The manufacturer has made some trade-offs in design and function. The Guide does not provide pre-dive scrolling of no-decompression limits as other computers do. On the other hand, it does offer a marvelous logbook function, recalling up to five previous dives. Which feature is more desirable? The choice is up to the buyer and his/her personal needs.

The Guide is also the only computer that will calculate decompression for high altitude dives of up to 13,200 feet. Only one other dive computer even comes close.

Another desirable feature of the Guide is its price. The wrist model retails for $450, the console is $540 or, with an optional compass, it is $599.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Guide dive computer, see your nearest Beuchat dive store dealer or contact: Beuchat, 811 Northwest First Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311; telephone (305) 523-7242.

TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 56)

and control fecal contamination that might carry bacterial waterborne diseases. However, even a negative bacterial count does not preclude contamination by a virus.

INDUSTRIAL WASTES

Industry has not always had to be careful or even concerned about the discharge of wastes. The 20th century proliferation of industry made it mandatory for better inspection, control and disposal of the wide variety of organic and inorganic waste. In recent years there have been great strides made by industry in controlling, reducing or stopping industrial pollution. However, contaminants such as arsenic, barium, cyanide, lead and, in water from refineries and chemical plants, possibly phenols, may still reach the aqueous environment and could affect the health of a diver.

In general, the constituents of waste water discharged from industrial plants are not disease causing materials. Some can create health problems by contact with a diver's skin and may cause temporary sickness if ingested. A diver's wet skin seems to have a tendency toward absorption of hydrocarbon materials.

My most frequent encounter with health problems, mostly minor, involved working as a commercial diver using scuba while inspecting or working on refinery and chemical plant outfalls. Usually, the effluent from outfalls is waste water from plant cooling processes and rainwater runoff. Only minimal, if any, contamination is expected to occur. The problem is some contamination does sometimes occur and it doesn't take much to cause a reaction. Usually, there is only an irritation around the lips and mouth. Occasionally, a reddening of the skin occurs.

The worst encounter I experienced was from an accidental discharge of product from a pipe that I was working on that caused chemical burns so quickly and so severely the skin on my hands and forearms blistered and peeled before I could reach the surface from a 60 foot dive. A moray eel that had been playing tag with my hands as I worked swam into the discharge, turned white and sank; it died almost instantly.

PLANT NUTRIENTS

Plant nutrients themselves are probably not a health hazard to divers. However, in some confined bodies of fresh water, nutrients from rainwater runoff or ground seepage have produced lush growths of algae. This provided an environment for a form of bacteria that, when ingested by swimmers and divers, pro-

(Continued on Page 147)



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Medic First Aid, as approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, covers primary care, secondary surveys, and lastly treatments, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Standards and Guidelines for Basic Life Support (CPR) (June 6, 1986) and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

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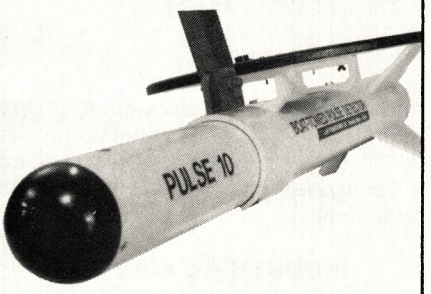
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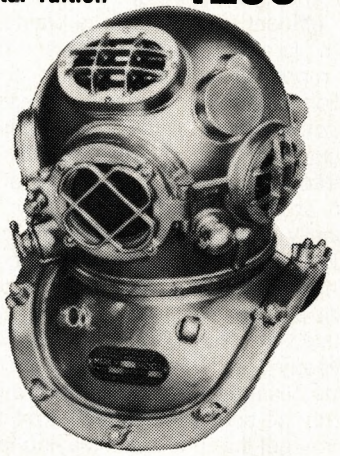
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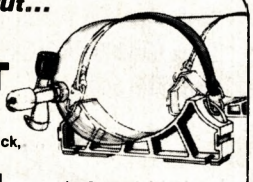
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TRAVEL

Bruce Bowker's CARIB INN

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

It had been several years since I was on Bonaire and I anticipated my return trip with some trepidation. I was afraid that, because of its popularity, this Dutch island wouldn't be the way I remembered it. But Bonaire hasn't changed much and I still regard this undersea utopia as one of my all-time favorite dive destinations.

One person who has helped preserve this island paradise, perhaps more than any other, is Bruce Bowker. A 40 year old native of New Jersey, Bruce has spent much of his last 15 years discovering and documenting many of the more popular dive sites regularly visited on Bonaire.

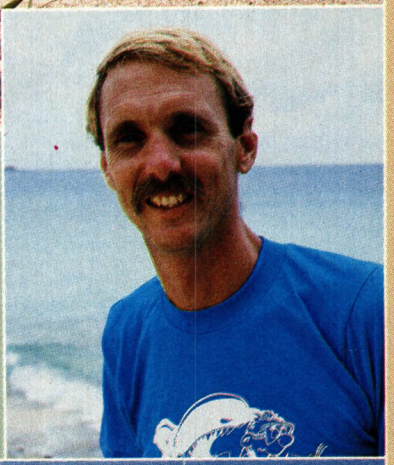
When Bruce and wife Liz purchased the Carib Inn in January 1980, there were only a few rooms and no dive operation. Today, this diver's resort has ten air-conditioned rooms encircling a patio pool and sundeck. Each has its own refrigerator and bath and cable television; six have complete kitchens.

Its intimacy and privacy has made the Carib Inn a desirable resort for those interested in a relaxed atmosphere. The apartment type rooms allow guests to prepare their own meals or dine out at any of the restaurants within a short walking distance.

The success of the Carib Inn is well deserved and built on a foundation of hard work and respect for the traveling diver. The uniqueness of the dive packaging is attractive to either the hardcore diver or the one who prefers an early morning dive and a relaxing afternoon around the pool.

The complete pro dive center is a full PADI and NAUI dive facility offering scuba sales, rentals and equipment repairs. Master PADI instructor Jim Surber and open water instructor Elaine Bale are constantly busy with full scuba certification courses, resort courses and student referrals. Two







The Carib Inn has ten air-conditioned rooms encircling a patio pool and sundeck. Above, from top: Terrace rooms; Bruce Bowker; 25 foot dive boat.

fast, open fisherman type boats carry only 8 to 10 divers. They leave the dock for the early dive at 9:00 am and the afternoon trip at 2:00 pm.

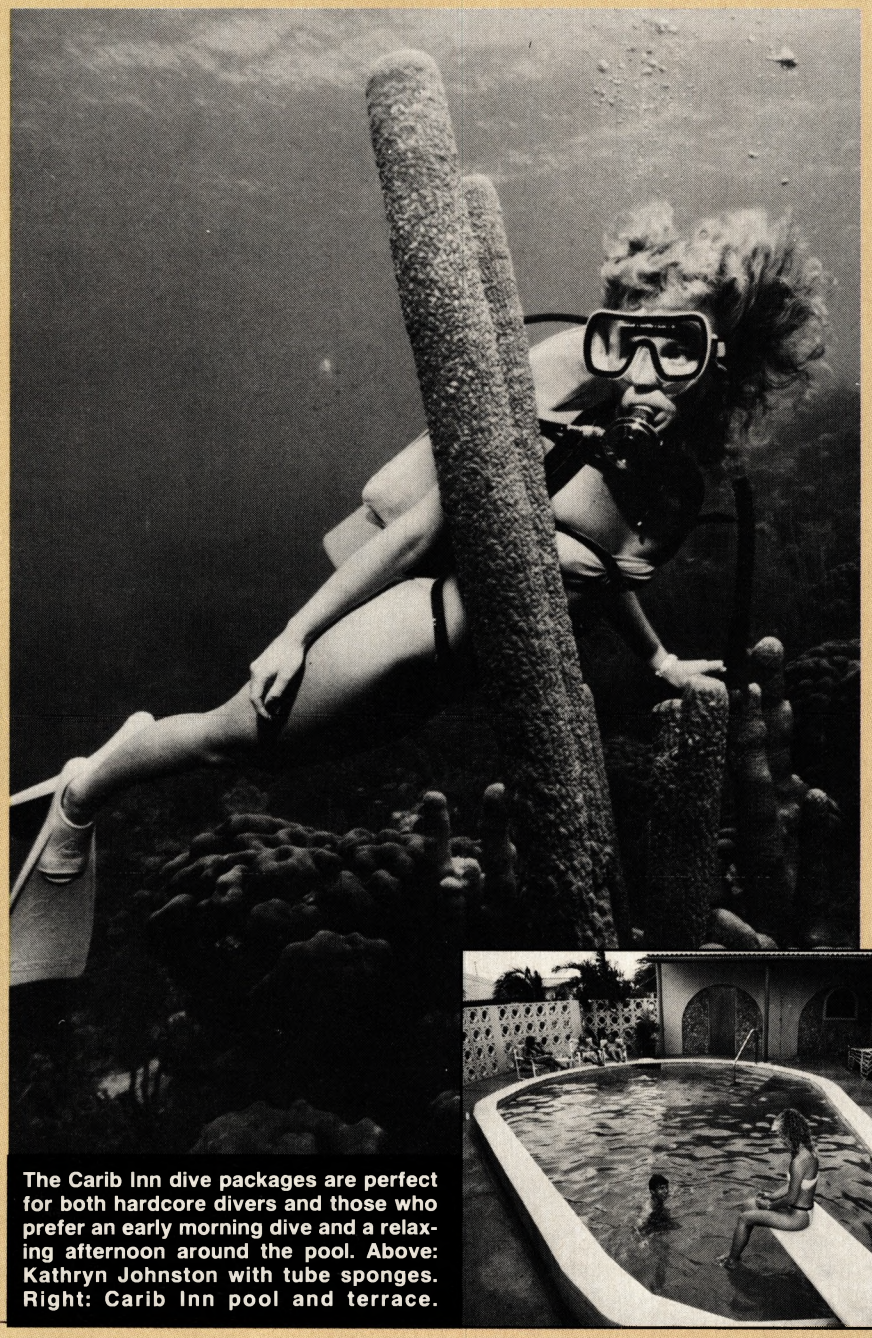
Water temperature off Bonaire varies from 78-82°F year-round. Visibility is generally in the 80 foot range and often exceeds more than 100 feet. Wave and current action is minimal or near non-existent. And, depending upon your dive location and time of day, you are sheltered from the almost constant tradewinds.

If diving is not all you're after, there are plenty of other island diversions. By renting a small car you can visit the steep hills of the Washington/Slagbaai National Park. Here you will find rugged, cactus covered landscape dropping sharply to the sea where gardens of elkhorn coral grow to within inches of the surface. Marine iguanas can be found sunning themselves while exotic Caribbean parakeets and wild parrots nest nearby. Pink flamingos are common throughout the island, and can be found near the park at Goto Meer or south at the salt pans where salt is still mined as it was more than 100 years ago.

Few dive operators know the island better than Bruce. Many of the sites were originally discovered by him and most still remain his personal favorites. Many of the sites are either not accessible to other dive operators or they are simply unaware of them.

It would probably take the better part of a year to fully explore the underwater world of Bonaire. Some personal favorites include: Sponges, on the near side of Klein Bonaire, aptly named for its multitude of sponges in exquisite colors and delicate forms. This reef is a sloping wall of sugar white sand that plummets into a cobalt sea cluttered with magnificent purple tube sponges, stringy wire sponges, brilliant orange elephant ear sponges, multi-colored azure and blood red sponges. This site is not dived by other operators because of its difficult anchorage. It is one of Bruce's favorites and I found myself wanting to return to it again and again.

On the north side of Klein Bonaire is a sharp vertical drop called Carl's Hill. There are many soft corals and colorful sponges that adorn the precipice. At the Forest, on the east end of Klein Bonaire, there are seafans that grow in excess of ten feet.



The Carib Inn dive packages are perfect for both hardcore divers and those who prefer an early morning dive and a relaxing afternoon around the pool. Above: Kathryn Johnston with tube sponges. Right: Carib Inn pool and terrace.

Before dive boats became popular, much of the diving was done from the shore. At a site called Rappel, Bruce and a friend used to rappel down a sharp cliff in full scuba gear. It is now one of the more popular dive sites on the island. At Karpata, the reef slopes in deep ravines to about 120 feet. Here the massive platelet and green sheet corals have streaks of iridescent blue and purple. The flowing walls of the English Gardens create a magnificent site with soft corals and lots of fish. The sloping walls of La Donia's Leap will send you flying down sand chutes crowded with hues of sponges and hard corals.

Still, one of the most heavily dived sites is the wreck of the *Hilma Hooker*. The old steel island freighter was seized in 1984 for carrying contraband drugs and later towed to its present site. The *Hilma Hooker* now rests on its starboard side in about 110 feet of water. The wreck is easily penetrated and serves as an excellent prop for photography.

Just as you can't eat one potato chip, you can't try Bonaire diving just once: You'll want to return again and again. For more information contact Bruce Bowker at the Carib Inn, P.O. Box 68, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles or dial direct, 011-599-7-8819.

BAY ISLANDS GETAWAY

Fantasia Travel & Incentives is offering easy getaway vacation packages to the Western Caribbean's Bay Islands. You can depart New Orleans every Friday aboard Lacsa Airlines at 8:30 am and sip a cool rum punch in Roatan or Guanaja by noon. Spend a relaxing weekend in an island paradise, fly out on Lacsa early Monday afternoon and arrive in New Orleans by early evening. These packages are ideal for scuba divers, fishermen, beachcombers, honeymooners and incentive travelers.

Fantasia's basic three night packages include round trip air fare from New Orleans, resort accommodations with three meals a day and transfers (except Bayman's Bay).

For information contact your travel agent or call (504) 899-8687 in Louisiana; (800) 348-9101 out of state.

ADVENTURE CONNECTION

Adventure Connection, the dive and adventure tour wholesale company, has moved to larger offices. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 8826, Waukegan, IL 60079; (800) 336-7717 or (312) 336-7717. Adventure Connection operates the Bay Islands Reservation Service; all Bay Islands resorts are represented. It services all worldwide dive destinations and specializes in adventure trips—safaris, trekking, bicycling, etc.

Dave Petkovsek recently became operations manager. His background is in the travel industry.

BRAC AQUATICS

In keeping with its continued expansion program, Brac Aquatics, of Cayman Brac, has opened its own U.S. sales office to further enhance the sales offices of La Mer, Brac Reef and Buccaneer's Inn. The new office will be managed by Sharon Silveria.

Owned by Winston McDermot, Brac Aquatics has facilities on the premises of Brac Reef Resort, Little Cayman. It also owns and operates *Little Cayman Diver*.

Brac Aquatics can be contacted at P.O. Box 280058, Tampa, Florida 33682-0058; telephone (813) 932-1993 in Florida, (800) 458-BRAC U.S. toll free, or (809) 948-7429.

CAYMAN SHOOTOUT

Scuba Safari of Grand Cayman offers video highlights of this year's Nikonos Shootout free with purchase of its video, *The Cayman Adventure*.

Additionally, Scuba Safari is offering a dive package for small groups including accommodations, use of a boat and diving with Jeff Kingstad. For information contact Kingstad at (809) 949-3742 or write to him at P.O. Box 2029, Grand Cayman, BWI.

THE BONAIRE BEACH HOTEL









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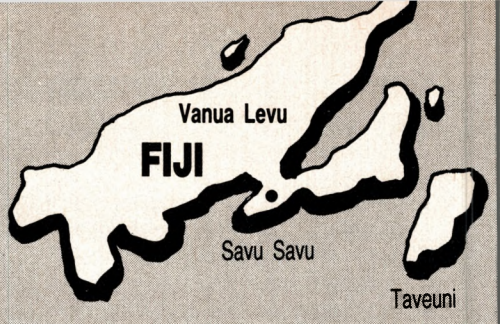
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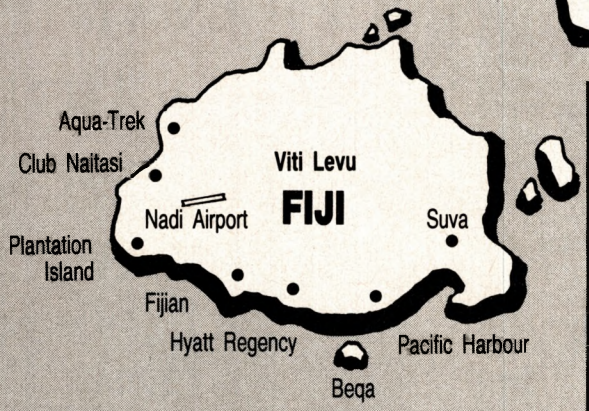
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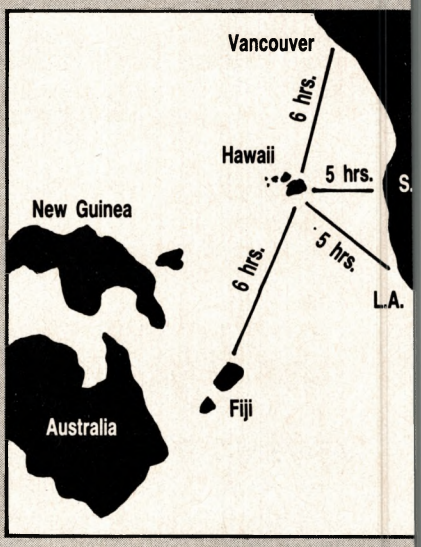
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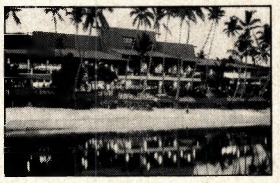
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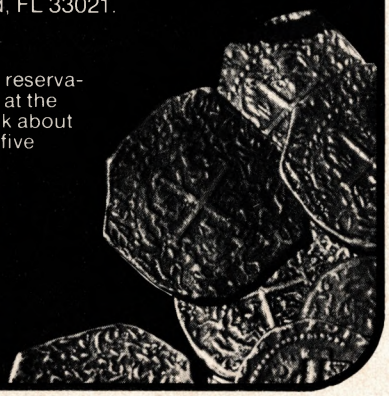
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BELIZE MARINE RESERVE

Dean Lindo, the Belize minister of agriculture and fisheries, recently signed legislation officially establishing the first marine reserve in Belize, Central America. Known as the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, it is approximately four miles south of San Pedro on Ambergris Cay.

Funds from the World Wildlife Fund and United States Agency for International Development will be used for the administration of the reserve. The park will be managed by the Belize government.



The new park comprises approximately seven square miles of coral reef and adjacent sea grass beds and mangroves. These three ecosystems are closely linked: The sea grass beds and mangroves are breeding and feeding grounds for many fishes; the reef protects these areas from destructive waves. By including these areas in the park, the entire area will be protected.

PELICAN WATERSPORTS

Pelican Watersports began operations in Aruba last September. It has two new dive boats custom-built in the United States—the 35 foot *Sea Explorer* and the 31 foot *Reef Runner*. Each boat is designed for diving with such features as walk-through transoms, extra long dive ladders with handrails, tank racks, tables for cameras and dive gear, beach ladders, large cockpit areas with canvas sunroofs and underwater lights. The modern Pelican Pier, built by Pelican Watersports, is on Palm Beach, minutes from all hotels. Two brand new Bauer air compressors, with advanced purification systems, provide air fills there.

Pelican Watersports recently became a certified international PADI training facility. It now operates complete PADI dive centers and dive shops at major hotels in Aruba. Pelican Watersports is a factory authorized dealer for Scubapro, Sherwood, Tabata and Dacor. Underwater cameras and video recorders are available for rental.

The watersports operation is managed by experienced PADI trained and certified instructors and all dives are guided by PADI divemasters. Dive packages are also available.

For additional information contact Pelican Watersports, North American Representative, Richard Mitsoda, 1080 Port Boulevard, Suite 100, Miami, Florida 33132 or phone (305) 373-3331.

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Captain Corky's Divers' World of Key Largo offers live-aboard dive trips and packages with accommodations at motels or the Sheraton Key Largo. There are two satellite operations; one on Highway 1 and a beach concession at the Sheraton (above). Above right: Kathryn Johnston feeds a gray angelfish. Left: The Toth family: Corky, Kim, Terry and Geo.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

Key Largo and the adjacent John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park have always been favorite destinations for diving vacationers. Famous for its massive walls of flowing fish and colorful encrusting corals, the park is a desired location for many underwater photographers. Paul Tzimoulis described it as "a fabulous fishbowl" in the August 1976 issue of SKIN DIVER. While not much has changed underwater since then, topside, Key Largo has matured. Captain Corky's Divers' World has moved with the times.

This Key Largo facility offers one of the best dive packages in the Keys. From many topside amenities, including luxury lodging at the Sheraton Key Largo hotel to economy packages at several local

motels, there is something for everyone.

Corky Toth, a former Detroit radio disc jockey, left the airwaves to pursue a lifelong dream of exploring under the sea. After spending a week in Key Largo with his wife Terry, son Geo (pronounced Joe) and daughter Kim, the diving hook was set. Soon afterward, Corky moved his family to Key Largo, And, in the fall of 1978 Captain Corky had his first diving boat built and began operating out of the BrynMaur Resort (now named the Key Largo Ocean Resort).

With personalized service and the motto of "our family dives with your family," Corky's business began to grow. In May 1983 the present store opened in Key Largo. Today, with consistent repeat business, the PADI, NAUI and SSI pro dive center is a sprawling waterfront facility of education, retail sales, equipment repairs, beach and sun wear.

Divers' World of Key Largo maintains one of the largest staffs in the Keys with more than 15 full-time instructors, salespeople, captains and mates. They are constantly busy with full scuba courses, resort and introductory classes and scuba referrals.

There are two satellite operations; one on the main highway, U.S. 1, and a beach concession at the Sheraton Key Largo Resort. The latter concession offers many nondiving activities. You can sail a catamaran, learn how to windsurf, spend the day fishing, waterski or just enjoy the fine old art of sunbathing.

To facilitate the growing traffic at Divers' World, two other boats have been added. The original 33 foot, 18 passenger *Free Time* is still Corky's favorite, however, he now has the 50 foot, 30 passenger *Double Time*, and the 60 foot, 40 passenger *Prime Time*.

The *Prime Time* offers smaller groups of 12 divers the opportunity to experience some of the more exotic sites of the Florida Keys and Bahamas. The *Prime Time* is a fully air-conditioned, U.S. Coast Guard certified vessel with comfortable berths, freshwater showers, a full galley and an inflatable chase boat for waterskiing, conch or lobster hunting. Also, après dive, windsurfers, color TV, video movies and stereo music are all available.

The five day trip takes you to some of the very best diving in the Bahamas. It includes three meals per day and snacks in between dives. Tanks, backpacks and weightbelts are all part of the package. The Bahamas trip usually includes some of the more popular sites around the Bimini area as well as the pristine reefs of the Victory Cays. These beautiful underwater mountains offer steep drop-offs, deep water canyons, caves and grottoes.

The three day Florida Keys package is equally exciting. You will live aboard the *Prime Time* with all the benefits of the Bahamas package, but experience the thrill of some of the out-of-the-way reef sites not regularly visited.

Divers' World's innovative ideas will add another dimension to your travel plans. In addition to the Bahamas and Keys dive trips, it can arrange a friendly frolic with some very tame dolphins, or entertain guests with some of the friendlier marine characters found throughout Pennekamp Park.

For the past three years Divers' World has been the underwater video headquarters for the Florida Keys. It is an authorized Sony Marine Pack dealer and specializes in underwater rentals and productions. As an added interest to an already exciting trip into the park, you can have a Divers' World videographer film your undersea visit. You can also enroll in the video school and produce your own video. Three day underwater video courses, with hands-on instruction, teach the student operation, technique, maintenance, editing, special effects and sound track in the Divers' World video production lab. Courses can be taken separately or consecutively. The end result is an advanced working knowledge of underwater video and a videotape of your underwater vacation.

Captain Corky, who is the president of the Upper Keys Artificial Reef Association, has recently won a bid to sink two historical ships off Key Largo. The 327 foot U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Bibb* and her 327 foot sister ship, the *Duane*, are to be sunk in 110 feet of water south of Molasses Reef this month.

The *Duane*, commissioned in 1936, and the *Bibb*, commissioned in 1937, were built at a cost of more than $2.4 million each. Both cutters served in World War II and the Vietnam War. Earlier this year they were decommissioned and a long struggle ensued to obtain these ships for artificial reef purposes.

When these fighting ships are finally at peace, it will be the beginning of an extraordinary adventure for divers.

For more information on Key Largo dive package rates, Bahamas trips and the Florida Keys Adventure, write to Captain Corky at Divers' World of Key Largo, P.O. Box 1663, Mile Marker 99.5, Key Largo, Florida 33037; or call (800) 445-8231 or (305) 451-3200. Good Luck!

Captain Corky's DIVERS' WORLD



A PADI, NAUI and SSI pro dive center, Divers' World offers retail sales and dive and photo equipment rentals. Guests can have their dives recorded on videotape and a video instruction course is offered as well. Divers' World can also arrange a frolic with tame dolphins.

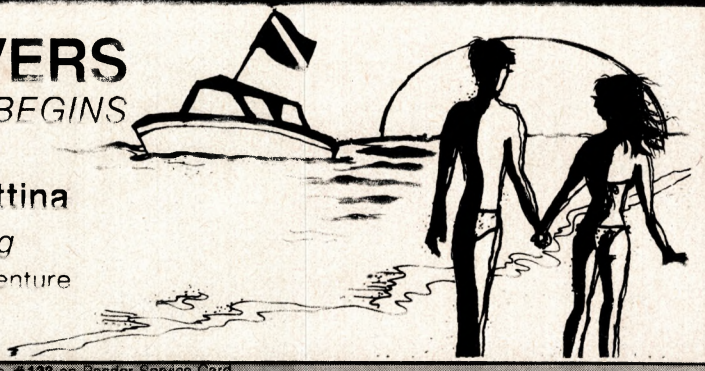
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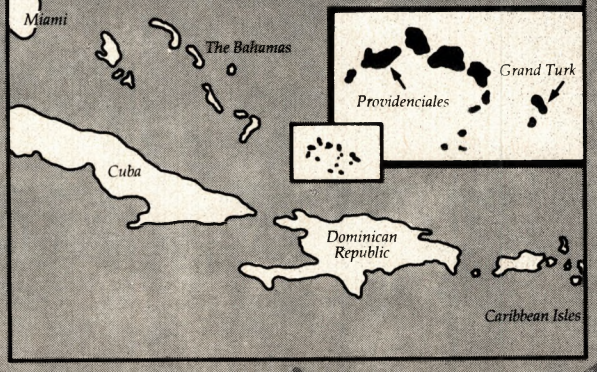
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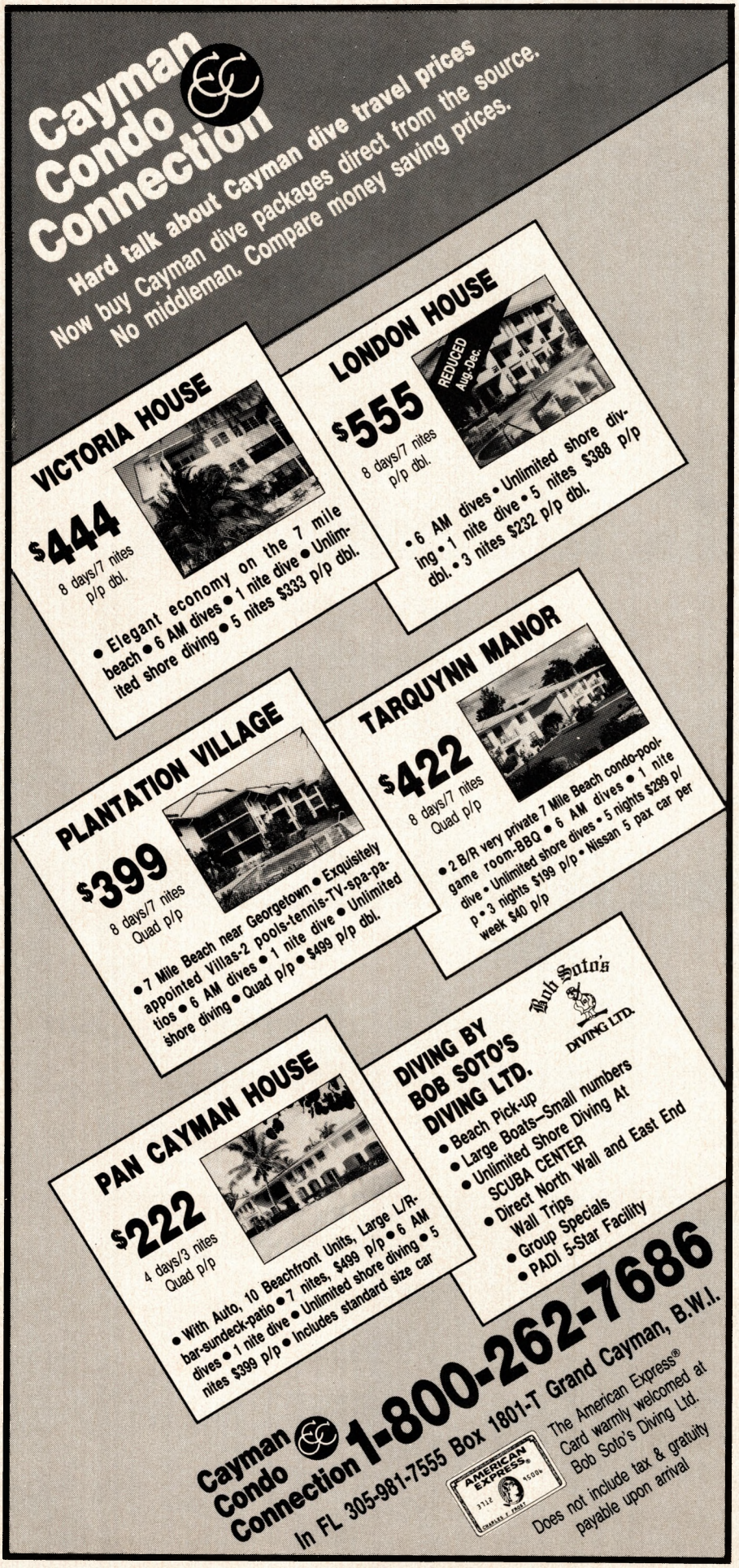
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Turks & Caicos Islands





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DIVI/S. OCEAN BEACH

The South Ocean Beach Resort in Nassau, Bahamas has come under the Divi Hotels banner, with an upgraded and expanded facility. The new Divi Bahamas Beach Resort & Country Club is presently closed and will reopen in November with $1.5 million in renovations completed. All new accommodations; a medley of restaurants and bars; an 18 hole championship PGA golf course; four all new plexipave surface tennis courts; a freshwater swimming pool; a variety of watersports including a Peter Hughes dive operation; an array of entertainment, activities and more will be available.

Ten minutes from the airport, the 120 room Divi Bahamas is just steps away from a 1,500 foot white sand beach and will offer complimentary transportation to downtown Nassau.

Information is available through travel agents or Divi Hotels Marketing, Inc.; (607) 277-3484 or, toll free, (800) 367-3484 in the U.S. and Canada.

GO DIVING MOVES

Go Diving, Inc., specialists in scuba diving travel, has moved to a new Minneapolis location to accommodate the increase in staff and operations. The toll free numbers remain the same.

In land-locked Minnesota since 1968, Go Diving, Inc. has grown steadily. Currently, it represents more than 50 resorts and live-aboards in the eastern and western Caribbean, as well as Central and South America. Destinations are constantly checked in order to keep up to date on the facilities and personnel.

Go Diving, Inc. offers personalized programs to individuals or groups, divers or nondivers that coordinate air and land arrangements. For more information call toll free (800) 328-5285 or (800) 328-0734 or, in Minnesota call (612) 942-9687. You can write Go Diving, Inc., 7630 West 78th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55435.

SEA SPORTS UNLIMITED

Sea Sports Unlimited, a full service diving center, has opened in Miami. It offers NAUI, PADI and YMCA instruction at all levels, from introductory to advanced and specialty courses. It carries a large selection of top quality diving equipment for sale or rental and has a 5,000 psi compressor system.

Sea Sports Unlimited offers daily dive trips aboard its custom-built charter boat to the wrecks and reefs of Miami. The M/V *Fins* is certified for 16, but for comfort is limited to 12 divers.

Sea Sports Unlimited is open seven days a week. For more information write to 726 NE 79th Street, Miami, Florida 33138 or call (305) 758-2460.

Treasure Island
DIVE RESORT

LOCATED ON GRAND CAYMAN'S FAMOUS SEVEN MILE BEACH







Grand Cayman's Newest and Finest Full Service Dive Resort

The new Treasure Island Dive Resort brings comfort, economy, and diver convenience to an island already world famous for magnificent diving. With three custom 45-foot dive boats, a 65-foot air-conditioned live-aboard dive boat, complete underwater photo center, dockside dive shop, and a staff of experienced Cayman dive professionals, Treasure Island is designed to provide maximum diver service.

Treasure Island Dive Resort features deluxe air-conditioned rooms with color satellite TV, Grand Cayman's finest night club, two fresh water swimming pools, superior dining, and complete watersports along our beautiful sand beach.

Treasure Island Dive Resort...
Your Key to Cayman Dive Adventure.







It costs no more to experience the best of Grand Cayman
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Enjoy significant savings with our condominium packages.

Best Western WORLDWIDE LODGING

For more information call:
1-800-223-4707
1-800-367-4707 (in Florida)

*per person double occupancy, including accommodations, boat dives, and unlimited shore diving.

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Fiji is only an 11 hour flight from the U.S. West Coast. With attractively priced travel packages, the lush and diverse mairne life of this exotic area is now accessible to American divers. Pacific Harbour Resort offers comfortable accommodations, restaurants, an 18 hole golf course and miles of deserted, white sand beaches. Beqa Divers has three dive boats and offers customers the most for their money. Clockwise from left: The interior of a suite at Pacific Harbour Resort; a brilliant blue seastar at Sidestreets; Pacific Harbour Resort rooms; a balioonfish photographed off Beqa Island.

PACIFIC HARBOUR RESORT

GATEWAY TO FIJI'S FABULOUS BEQA REEFS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROD AND KATHY CANHAM

Fiji is a South Pacific island group that embodies the image of a tropical paradise. Its 332 islands are green with lush, tropical foliage bordered with long, white sand beaches and populated by friendly, gregarious people. The waters off Fiji abound with hundreds of species of corals and are alive with myriads of multi-hued tropicals and unusual invertebrates. The resorts are top-drawer Polynesian meccas that have drawn tourists from nearby Australia for the last one-quarter century. At face value, Fiji would seem priced out of the American market, yet round trip air fare from the West Coast, a week at a beautiful resort and five days of two tank boat diving can all be had for less than $1,200!

South of the equator and just west of the international dateline, Fiji is an 11 hour flight from any city on the West Coast. Passengers travel, via Honolulu, aboard a Continental Airlines DC-10 to the main island of Viti Levu. After landing at Nadi and clearing customs and immigration (current passport required), travelers pick up trip packets from Tapa Tours that spell out a worry free vacation, step-by-step.

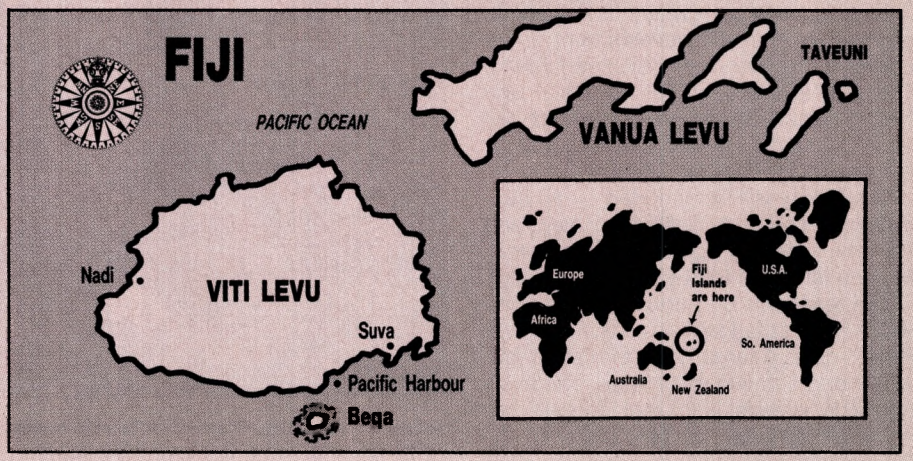
From the airport it is a two and one-half hour ride along Queen's Highway. The scenic, south shore route passes small Fijian villages, large, exotic resorts and beautiful lagoons locked in by the "Coral Coast's" barrier reef.

The destination, Pacific Harbour International Resort, is 28 miles west of Fiji's capital city, Suva. It is a quiet community spread out over 1,200 acres. Guests can stay in the personable, 84 room hotel or a self-sufficient villa. Ideal for groups of divers or families, the two or four bedroom villas are available in standard, superior or deluxe accommodations, each with its own swimming pool.

The complex, managed by Denver native James Sutherland, was recently purchased by the Aston Corporation, a Honolulu based hotelier. Rooms are currently being upgraded and 120 rooms will be added by 1989. The rooms are comfortably decorated with a blend of practical and Polynesia. Each has twin or double beds, a refrigerator, coffee facilities and balcony. Although Fiji has no television, Pacific Harbour has an in-house video network cabled to each room with daily movie offerings.

Pacific Harbour has several restaurants and activities galore for its guests. There is the Cultural Center and Marketplace; an 18 hole championship length golf course and clubhouse; horseback riding; and, more than five miles of deserted white sand beaches. The harbor is conveniently adjacent to the hotel for game fishing and dive charter boats.

Beqa (pronounced ben-gah) Divers is a family owned and operated business that opened in December 1985 as a subsidiary of the long established Scubahire in nearby Suva. Dave and Lorraine Evans draw on their 20 plus years of experience in Fiji's waters to give customers the most for their diving dollars. Daughter Kahren has recently returned from college in Australia to serve as divemaster, instructor and goodwill ambassador. Kahren's enthusiasm for diving and Fiji is infectious and divers soon feel at home, welcome to relax or participate in as many activities as desired.



Pacific Harbour Resort is on the island of Viti Levu in Fiji. Dive sites are in Beqa Lagoon.

The pace is very relaxed. Boats leave around 9:00 am and return between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. The workhorse of the fleet is the *Beqa Diver*, a 28 foot aluminum hulled catamaran handling up to 10 divers. The company can also draw on the *Sundowner* and *Fiji Diver* for larger groups (up to 35). The *Beqa Diver* is spacious (12.5 foot beam) with cushioned seats to allow a comfortable ride in the sometimes choppy seas. The boat has a roof for protection from the sun and a head. Cruising easily at 25 knots, *Beqa Diver* covers the seven miles from the harbor to Beqa Lagoon in 20 minutes.

The lagoon is actually a coral atoll with 40 miles of reefs and hundreds of sites to choose from. With virtually exclusive access to the area, Beqa Diver's customers enjoy uncrowded reefs. Anchorage is often in the lee of Yanuca Island. Groups are briefed on topographical and marine highlights, depths and times. Aluminum 72 cubic foot tanks are filled to 3,000 psi and the boat's transom door provides easy access to the water. Dive buddy teams can break off on their own or stay with the knowledgeable dive guides.

Black Coral Fantasy is a two headed pinnacle that divers circumnavigate in depths from 10 to 80 feet. Every level of this breathtaking site provides new discoveries. Black coral trees, some as large as 12 feet in diameter, thrive in depths of 35 feet. All of them host a microcosm of marine life. Long nosed hawkfish rest on branches while nearby, pipefish, cousins of the seahorse, swim freely in search of food. Rhino morays (also known as ribbon eels), violet and gold, sway in the gentle surge as if mesmerized by a snake charmer. The marine life is abundant and diversified.

A one and one-half hour break is taken after the first dive for reflection, sharing and lunch. Divers are responsible for their own food but coffee and fruit juice are provided by the crew. During the break, divers and passengers can enjoy the beach of a nearby island or stay on board and relax.

Side streets is an excellent afternoon dive site. Picturesque, its coral encrusted lava ridges drop to more than 50 feet. Three tubes radiate from a center point, giving the site its name. Side Streets is loaded with gorgonian fans, *Alcyonacean* soft corals, *Tridacna* clams and resident schools of beautiful chromis, sweetlips and barracudas.

Another very popular site with Beqa Divers is Soft Coral Grotto. Coral ridges, thick with gorgonians, converge in a

(Continued on Page 101)

Diving News From Down Under

The World's First Floating Hotel

BY GERI MURPHY

Australia is about to launch one of the largest, most ambitious projects in the history of resort development. Planned to open this October is the world's first floating hotel, anchored on the barrier reef, 44 miles offshore.

Larger than a football field, this seven story floating structure will contain 200 guest rooms and suites, all with a magnificent view of the Great Barrier Reef.

This remarkable project is the brain child of an Australia development group known as Barrier Reef Holdings Limited. The firm is listed on the Australia and New Zealand Stock Exchange and has been granted a development permit by the Australian Federal Government.

The facility will be operated by an Australian chain, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. This firm operates 19 resorts in key tourist areas throughout the country.

The resort will be permanently moored within a protected lagoon on John Brewer Reef. This is a large coral formation four miles long and two miles wide. The average U/W visibility is 80 feet. The site lies 44 miles northeast of Townsville on the Queensland Coast. The resort will offer daily transportation from Townsville by either high speed catamaran (90 minutes) or helicopter (20 minutes).

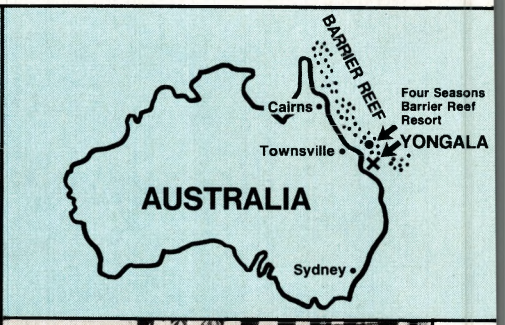
Known as the Four Seasons Barrier Reef, the new offshore complex will be much more than just a floating hotel. In addition to the 200 guest rooms and suites, the seven story structure will contain the world's first offshore conference room with a capacity of 200 people. There will be a gourmet restaurant, an informal coffee shop and an outdoor barbecue facility, complete with salad bar. The structure will also contain two cocktail lounges, a nightclub, gymnasium, sauna and numerous specialty shops.

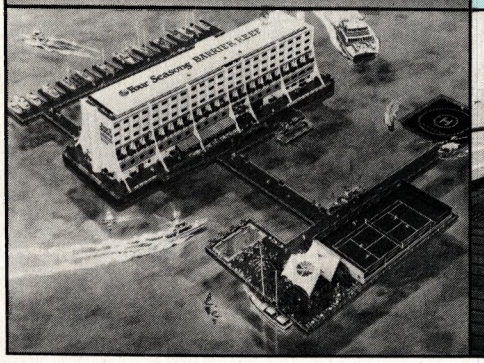
Surrounding the structure will be a variety of outdoor facilities including a tennis court, a swimming pool, a helicopter landing pad and a complete marina for private yachts and fishing boats.

Accommodations will include both double rooms and executive suites. They will include such world-class amenities as: telephones with direct international dialing, closed-circuit television and refrigerators with mini-bars. The price of double rooms will range from $200 to $225 per night. Suites will range from $270 to $430 per night.

Four Seasons Barrier Reef Resort will be moored northeast of Townsville. It will be the first floating highrise hotel. Qantas flies 747s direct to Cairns, gateway to the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef.









Plans for the Four Seasons Resort include a tennis court, swimming pool, helicopter landing pad and a complete marina for private yachts and fishing boats.

Two of the main activities at the Four Seasons Barrier Reef Resort will be snorkeling and scuba diving. Diving services will include daily trips to nearby reefs and a full learn to dive program for beginners.

In addition to diving, the resort will offer many other activities. There will be both game fishing excursions and bottom fishing trips. Cruises will be offered to nearby barrier reef coral cays and bird rookeries. There will also be daily yacht cruises complete with a smorgasbord luncheon and cocktails at sunset. Nondivers can also view the wonders of the barrier reef by taking a ride on the resort's 48 seat semi-submersible submarine.

A high priority has been given to environmental considerations. Experts from Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are involved to assure the success of this venture in the delicate marine wonderland of the Pacific. Research, planning and technology have been employed under a continuing arrangement, designed to expand scientific knowledge and enhance public understanding and appreciation of this massive collection of coral formations. The hotel's power generating plant will operate at al-

(Continued on Page 101)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For hotel info and brochures call:

Four Seasons Resorts
U.S. toll free (800) 854-3413
CA toll free (800) 922-3559

For dive packages and reservations contact:

Dive In Australia
50 Francisco Street, Suite 205
San Francisco, CA 94133
U.S. toll free (800) 348-3978
In California (415) 421-5588

D • I • S • C • O • V • E • R

LUCAYA

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND







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247 luxurious waterview rooms
4 fine restaurants and lounges
150 slip marina
Flamingo Showcase Theatre

The New Atlantik Beach Hotel
175 rooms including
52 tri-level oceanfront suites
3 fine restaurants

Holiday Inn
505 rooms - 31 oceanfront with private balconies, 2 suites.
6 restaurants and lounges.
Nightclub/Disco

The World's Finest Dive Resort Opens

In 1965, that was the announcement. The dive operation was the Underwater Explorers Society, UNEXSO. It has become a legend, located in Lucaya, Grand Bahama Island. In 1987 Lucaya has become a destination of its own. Earlier visitors are returning for a pleasant surprise. What do the authorities say today?

"UNEXSO is the most sophisticated and best equipped diving facility in The Bahamas: and in fact, the world."

– Paul Tzimoulis, publisher, *Skin Diver Magazine.*



Lucaya is located on 2 miles of the finest white coral sand beach on Grand Bahama Island and has a choice of quality hotels and great diving packages. No other Caribbean destination has a luxurious 20,000 square foot casino like the Lucayan Beach Resort & Casino, right on the beach. Opening in 1987, is Port Lucaya, a five acre shopping and entertainment complex with marina and 75 "international" shops and restaurants.

The #1 dive destination. Year after year that is how *Skin Diver* readers rate The Bahamas. Water clarity, marine life, comfort and convenience.

As an introduction to the new Lucaya, UNEXSO will give you a certificate for a FREE DIVE if you call or write in reference to this ad. The free dive certificate is non-transferable, is good for one year and limited to one per customer.

Dive package rates start from $149 per person double occupancy.
For Dive Package Information and Reservations Call Toll Free 1-800-992-DIVE.
Florida (305) 761-7679 • Bahamas (809) 373-1244 or write: P.O. Box 5608, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33310

LUCAYAN BEACH RESORT & CASINO
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A GENTING INTERNATIONAL RESORT & CASINO

Atlantik Beach Hotel

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS SOCIETY UNEXSO

Holiday Inn
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LUCAYAN MARINA HOTEL & SPA
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It's Better In The Bahamas.

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GRAND TURK

DIVING'S BEST KEPT SECRET



Top: Diver Jill Harley ascends the reef at Tunnels. Above: Pillory Beach Hotel/Turks Island Aquasports' *Off The Wall*. Below: The custom designed, 45 foot live-aboard *Aquanaut* caters to groups of six or fewer divers.



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL GLEASON

It's a small island, devoid of mountains and waterfalls. There are no rivers and barely a hill to distinguish it from the blue-green sea that surrounds it. Only a privileged few know its name and fewer still know of the beauty beneath its sea. We are witnessing the birth of a new diving destination on the island of Grand Turk; with time and luck, this island will become the Grand Cayman, Cozumel or Bonaire of tomorrow.

Only one and one-half hours from Miami, Florida, Grand Turk is the capital of a small island nation known as the Turks and Caicos. Southeast of the Bahamas, this former British Crown Colony has flirted with diving greatness for much of the last 15 years. Every couple of years a new operation or airline would begin to promote Grand Turk, several hundred lucky people would discover just how great the diving is, the operation or airline would shut down and Grand Turk's chances for lasting fame would dim. But stability has arrived in Grand Turk in the last two years and it's SKIN DIVER's opinion Grand Turk will become one of the hottest diving destinations in the Caribbean area in the very near future.

Successful dive destinations all share some common characteristics, so let's compare

Grand Turk and see how it fares. Topside, most great diving islands are flat, with little rainfall and no river runoff. This means the visiblity stays world-class year-round. Grand Turk is no exception. In the early days of Cayman, Bonaire and Cozumel there was little in the way of nightlife and tourist type attractions. Some divers would argue there still isn't much to do in these islands except dive and they would be a little right. Grand Turk reminds me exactly of these destinations before they became famous. A few restaurants (decent by diving island standards), a small town, plenty of beaches and nothing to do: That's the description of every successful dedicated diving island before it became successful. Again, Grand Turk is no exception.

Let's get on to the good part. Because these islands don't have much to attract large numbers of tourists, the reefs stay pristine. And, in the case of a few islands, the sides of the undersea mountains upon which they sit are both vertical and close to shore, creating what we call "walls." Grand Turk walls are very close to shore, and very, very vertical. Many fish and eagle rays congregate here. Last, but certainly not least, we must have a place to sleep and someone to carry our tanks, because, thankfully, shore diving and tank lugging went out of vogue about ten years ago. For the first time in years, there's quite a choice on Grand Turk. These options include a small liveaboard and a larger, state of the art liveaboard; three land based dive operations, with solid boats and good hotels and guesthouses. That's the real key to why Grand Turk is going to get hot! The diving has always been spectacular; now you can choose from a complete menu of dive operations and hotels.

LAND BASED OPERATIONS

I started my week's diving with Omega Divers, headquartered at the Kittina Hotel. The Kittina, a 40 room complex right on the beach just south of the main town, is a delightful mix of old and new. The central rooms, bar and restaurant are classic Caribbean in style and there are 20 beachfront units added just three years ago. Kit and Tina Fenimore, the owners, have been supporters of Grand Turk diving for more than 17 years.

On my first day I found my gear already loaded on *Fiesta*, a large, well appointed dive boat complete with camera table, dive platform, captain and divemaster. We decided to dive one of the walls first and headed for our first site just a few minutes away—one of 40 that are regularly visited. As we dropped over the side, I got that strange premonition that this was going to be one of the good ones. I wasn't disappointed. Visibility was excellent. The wall started in 40 feet of water and went down, it seemed, forever.

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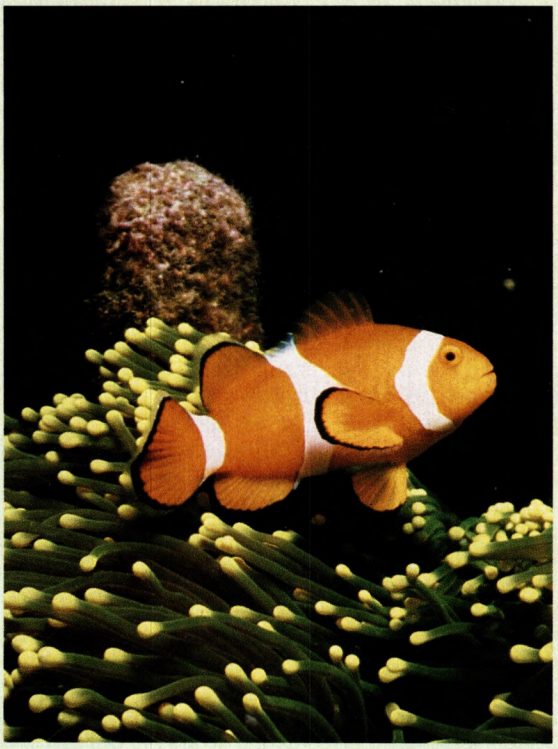






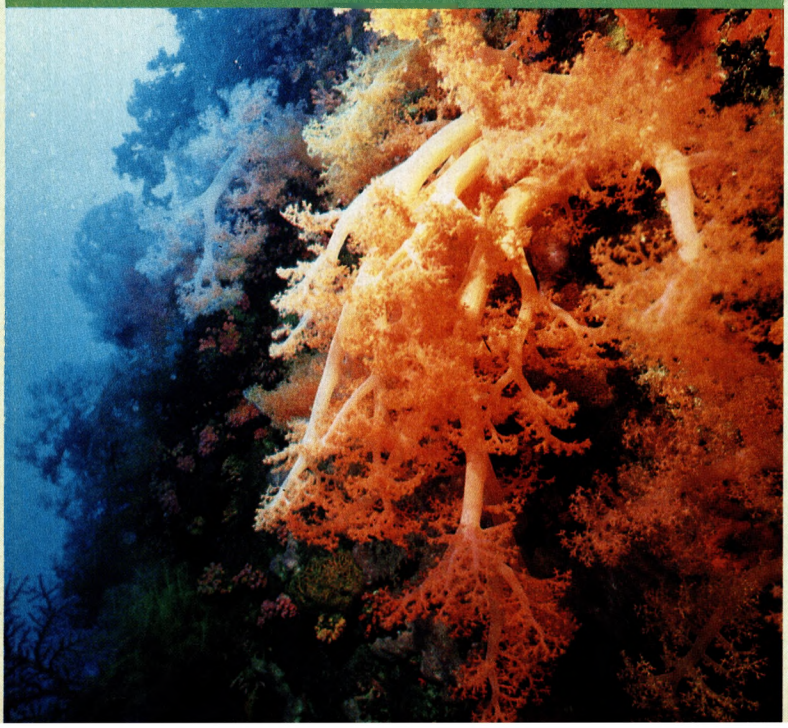
Grand Turk offers the best characteristics of a great diving island: little runoff from rain, pristine reefs, steep walls close to shore and a choice of accommodations and dive operators. Top to bottom: Peter Hughes' brand new 100 foot *Sea Dancer*; a southern stingray makes a hasty takeoff; Blue Water Divers' express boat to Grand Turk reefs; Kittina Hotel/ Omega Divers' 35 foot *Fiesta*.

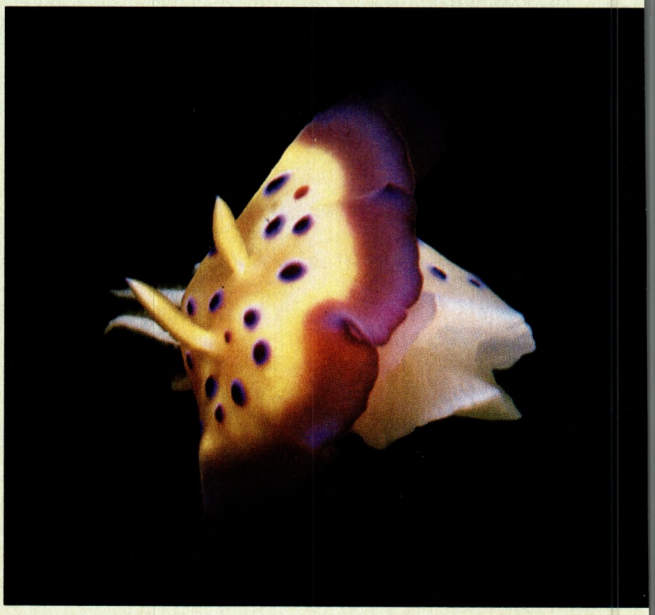






Perfect for close-up photos of marine life, Batangas features a soft coral background in reds, oranges, yellows and pastels. There are numerous nudibranchs, multitudes of fish, crinoids, basketstars and other invertebrates galore. Topside, visitors will experience a unique culture. With new air and accommodations packages, a one week dive trip to the Philippines need no longer be considered a dream.





BATANGAS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Color And Critter Explosion

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL GLEASON

Pack the macro tubes, pack the close-up equipment. While you're at it, pack a dive computer as well. When you get a look at what's in store for you underwater in the Philippines, you're not going to settle for two dives a day. There's a color and critter explosion just waiting for you in Batangas, one of the most popular dive areas in these islands.

First there's the soft coral background, different and more beautiful than any you've seen before. This is the South Pacific's diving signature—reds, oranges, yellows and many pastel shades in between. But, as unbelievable as the color is, look closer. There are all kinds of critters as well. There are nudibranchs more numerous and varied than junk mail. Fish? There are enough species to drive an ichthyologist wild. Crinoids? You have to move them out of the way to get close to the basketstars and invertebrates you want to photograph.





Batangas diving is done from outrigger boats called bangkas. Guides are very helpful. Above: Bonito Island Resort.

The South Pacific color and critter explosion is upon us. Perceived by most divers as the trip of a lifetime, or more likely as needing a lifetime to save for it, the realities of South Pacific travel in 1987 provide us with a pleasant surprise. Imagine a one-week trip, including air fare, lodging and diving, for around $1,250. It's not a dream, but a reality with Philippine Airlines. It includes a coach seat on a fully equipped 747 with frequent departures from L.A. and San Francisco. You'll find the U.S. dollar goes far in the Philippines and everything from lodging to food is quite a bit cheaper than you would expect.

The Batangas area of the Philippines is on the main island of Luzon, about two and one-half hours south of Manila. Once you arrive in Manila, you transfer by van to Batangas City and finish your trip with a short boat ride to Batangas Bay. Even if you're really tired after your long flight, I doubt you'll sleep once you reach Manila. This is, after all, probably your first foray into the Far East. We're talking different culture and, at first, your mind reels with the differences. The color explosion starts in Manila. The chief mode of transportation is the jeepney, a stretched Jeep that looks like a station wagon with seats on both sides. Of course, there may also be up to 500 colored ornaments on it as well. And, jeepneys are everywhere! Manila is a very large, crowded, cosmopolitan city. It's a study in contrasts between native Filipino (rural and urban) culture, with strong evidence of the two other cultures that have most profoundly influenced the country—Spanish and American.

Are the Philippines safe for dive travelers? This is a question put to me constantly. Well, it is exotic travel, and all exotic travel has a little more risk to it than going to Disneyland. But, although I take the same precautions in Manila that I take in New York or Miami, once you're out of the urban areas and into the farm and fishing communities, there are very few problems. The people are friendly and you shouldn't ever expect to carry a bag. Politically, most of the problems are far to the south, out of range of the popular diving areas. Almost all tours are met at the airport and, if you're a first time visitor to the Philippines, I would recommend this.

Once into the Batangas area, there are several resorts to choose from. In Batangas Bay, you may choose from Aqua Tropical, Anilao Sea Sports and Dive 7000. All three resorts provide rooms, meals and diving. And, the diving is a real treat. Throw out all your ideas of custom designed dive boats such as those in the Caribbean. Here they use an outrigger type vessel known as a bangka and depending on its size, anywhere from 6 to 20 divers may be on board. It's pretty easy to get used to, particularly since the guides are very helpful in getting you suited up (many will wash your gear as well), but you definitely know it's not a stroll down Seven Mile Beach.

The most popular dive here is known as The Cathedrals and most divers want to return to it again and again. In the Batangas area, don't expect 200 foot visibility. More likely you'll en-

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GRAND TURK

(Continued from Page 83)

Groupers, eels and a southern stingray named Stubby (he or she is missing most of its long tail) were encountered. The wall is so vertical that, in parts, there's an overhang at the top, creating a dramatic opportunity to swim under as well as next to the wall. Omega owner and PADI master instructor, Gene Albierti, swam me through this entire dive site and half of the next and I returned a convert to Grand Turk diving.

Next day, I journeyed up the road a bit and stayed at the Pillory Beach Hotel. This is the newest property on Grand Turk, only recently completed. It has 20 units that are tasteful and modern in design. I was quickly picked up by their dive operator, Mike Spillar, on *Off The Wall*, a custom designed 42 foot boat. Mike, a veteran of more than a decade of diving on Grand Turk, asked me if I'd been to McDonald's. At first I thought he was kidding, because there are no fast-food restaurants on Grand Turk. Slowly it dawned on me that he meant a dive site and I replied "Let's go see the arches." After all, any dive site called McDonald's just has to have arches. I was absolutely correct. We descended into a sand bowl past towering coral heads and headed for the wall. At the top there are a series of arches, tunnels and small caves. There were great sponges and a five foot barracuda that barely moved. When Mike asked me after the dive where I wanted to go next, I asked him, "Can we just do that one again?" No problem. The dive is that good.

Wanting to sample all of the dive operations on the island, I headed for Blue Water Divers and met Mitch Rolling and Clark Hawthorne, Blue Water's two owners. This dive shop is right in town, and caters to guests staying in the small hotels and guesthouses that dot Grand Turk, such as the congenial, ten room Salt Raker Inn. Blue Water's specialty is getting you out to the reefs and back fast. Its 26 foot open boat is quick and Mitch schedules a variety of dives each day, catering to small groups and couples.

We dropped in at Tunnels and I thought I was back at McDonald's, the reef looked so good. It was complete with tunnels and caves at the top and a very sheer wall. I was soon to find out the "best" sites in Grand Turk differ little from the "worst," and all fit in the world-class category. As you might expect from this small operation, service is the key and Blue Water Divers did not disappoint me.

How about night life? Well, you can catch Mitch playing the guitar one or two nights a week and the Kittina plays host to the high school rhythm band (complete with a young man playing the saw) and features native Caribbean dances performed by the students. Sound funky? Grand Turk is, it's a small, developing destination. The folks are friendly, the beaches uncrowded. But don't plan on shopping a lot because that's just not a part of the program yet.

LIVE-ABOARD OPERATIONS

Peter Hughes, the most successful dive operator in the Caribbean, thought enough of the diving off Grand Turk to base his first live-aboard boat here. *Sea Dancer* is a 100 foot high tech, state of the art boat. With accommodations for 24, *Sea Dancer* not only samples the legendary walls of Grand Turk, but cruises to South Caicos as well. Diving is conducted on a round-the-clock basis, so if heavy diving is your goal, maybe *Sea Dancer* should be your choice.

I dived around the north tip of Grand Turk with *Sea Dancer* and visited a site with no name. Instead of walls, coral spur and groove formations predominated, intermixed with sand bowls and coral heads. There was very clear water and a wild array of marine life. Eagle rays, turtles and a few nurse sharks were seen on just the first dive. Grand Turk diving is not just limited to those fantastic walls.

Would you like to be pampered for a week, with captain and crew fussing about your every need? Try *Aquanaut*, a 45 foot multihull live-aboard. Catering to four divers, Captain Bob Gascoind and divemaster Cindy Lott provide the ultimate in personal service. You dive when you like and receive a full briefing on every site. You can dive with Bob and/or Cindy or with your own buddy. *Aquanaut* is spacious, with private staterooms and deck space for lounging and sunbathing. Meals are a delight, as is the intimate feeling of sharing your diving adventure with Bob and Cindy.

In the water, both move more like dolphins than divers. Their marine knowledge is extensive, so critter finding is usually no problem. They will share some special sites with you—be sure to ask Bob about his sponge (not his, really, but he discovered it). He believes it's the largest orange sponge in the world, measuring 12 to 15 feet in the shape of nearly a perfect circle.

HOTELS

Hotel Kittina
4197 Braganza Avenue
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
(305) 667-0966

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Turks and Caicos, BWI
(809) 946-2630

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Island Reef Hotel
TMB 10, Grand Turk
Turks and Caicos, BWI
(809) 946-2055
or Mega Travel
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Miami, FL 33183
(800) 843-7544
(305) 385-0779

Turks Island Aquasports
c/o Scubaworld
167 West 72nd Street
New York, NY 10023
(800) 338-6663
(212) 496-6983

Blue Water Divers
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Turks and Caicos, BWI
(809) 946-2432

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***Sea Dancer*, 100'**
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Peter Hughes Diving
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(607) 277-3484

***Aquanaut*, 45'**
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So that's Grand Turk. At last, after a struggle of 15 years, it has something for every diver. There are much better hotels and three shore based dive operations ranging from small and fast to moderate size and efficient. There is a small live-aboard and the state of the art *Sea Dancer*. The diving has always been good, but the last two years have brought it into the modern age. Pan Am has been flying here regularly for the same time period, so it looks as if Grand Turk will fulfill its dream of becoming one of the hottest diving destinations in the world.

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The Ultimate Dive Vacation At The Perfect Price

- Grand Turk Islands spectacular wall
- Visibility 150-250'
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- Dive with humpback whales, giant mantas and schools of porpoise
- Sunset horseback rides
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FREE PADI SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

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pp/dbl. occ.

Once in a lifetime package includes: 12 dives, specialty certification, oceanfront rooms, unlimited beach diving, free use of Tekna DV-3X underwater vehicle, Hobie-Cat sailboats, windsurfers, ski-bobs. Free half-day moped. Free U/W camera rental, treasure hunt with prizes, welcome drink, rum punch party. All transfers, taxes, tips. Other packages from $127.

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GRAND TURK-BRITISH WEST INDIES

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Bob Soto's Diving LTD.

Proudly announce the **Fifth** Annual

Guaranteed Dive Vacation



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The Hotel—Our International Beach Resort is located right on the beach in the heart and best part of beautiful 7 Mile Beach. Spacious, well appointed rooms, freshwater pool and beach bar. Excellent food and the home of the Cayman's best evening entertainment, the legendary Barefoot Man, the "Scuba Balladeer."

The Diving—Bob Soto's Ltd., the island's only PADI 5 Star diving facility, presents the most comfortable, spacious boats on Grand Cayman. Our drop-front boats pick you up right at the Holiday Inn beach—5-15 minutes to Cayman's best dive sites.

New Additions—Upgrade available for North Wall or Double Wall Dives at minimal additional charge. Underwater slide show every week. Maximum divers per boat 20 people. Room upgrade at additional cost, based on availability at time of arrival. Northwest Airlines—official airline for guaranteed dive package.

Dive Packages Includes—5 nite accommodations (economy category) at the Holiday Inn Grand Cayman—full American breakfast daily—four morning two tank dives—one night dive.

Package Also Includes—Unlimited shore diving • tanks/backpack/weight belt/surface buoy/for shore dives • Free Bob Soto's Diving T-shirt • Welcome Manager's Rum Punch Party • Free admission to the Wreck of the Ten Sails nightclub • All the amenities of the Holiday Inn Grand Cayman. *Air fare is not included.*

Price **$399.00** per person double occupancy

Effective April 21 through December 15, 1987

Three night package **$219.00** per pers. dbl. occ.

Seven night package **$529.00** per pers. dbl. occ.

**Prices do not include 10% service charge and 6% government tax which will be quoted at the time of booking.*

Your dive boat will operate every day—GUARANTEED
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1-800-421-9999

RON KIPP'S Bob Soto's DIVING LTD.

BATANGAS

(Continued from Page 85)

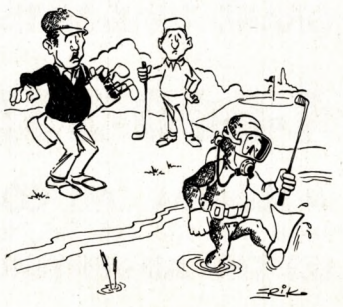
counter 60 to 80 foot visibility in this nutrient rich water. But the corals and critters are unbelievable. The Cathedrals may be the macro capital of the world. In three dives with two cameras on each dive, it took no more than 30 minutes to shoot all 72 frames of film. On the night dive, I could have used four cameras and still not had enough film.

The Cathedrals are a large rock with a split through it in about 50 feet of water. Water often surges or drifts through the cut and exotic critters are often found there. There's reef diving as well, but it comes up a "B" compared to the famed Tubataha Reefs hundreds of miles to the south and reached only by live-aboard dive boats. But, remember that this "B" is a wildly different and exciting type of diving if you've never seen this area of the underwater world.

If that's not enough and you'd like to try something different, take a boat ride from Batangas City to Bonito Island. This little island has one small dive resort on it, with about ten rooms. It is quiet, charming and beautiful. Underwater, there are hot springs. You descend through bubbles of escaping gas to the bottom at 50 feet. There you'll see this gas, actually steam, as it escapes from the coarse volcanic sand. The bubbles are quite warm, so I recommend no wetsuit for this dive. Topside, Bonito Island has a nature trail and beach. Meals are served in the main building. As it is everywhere in the Philippines, the food is plentiful and good.

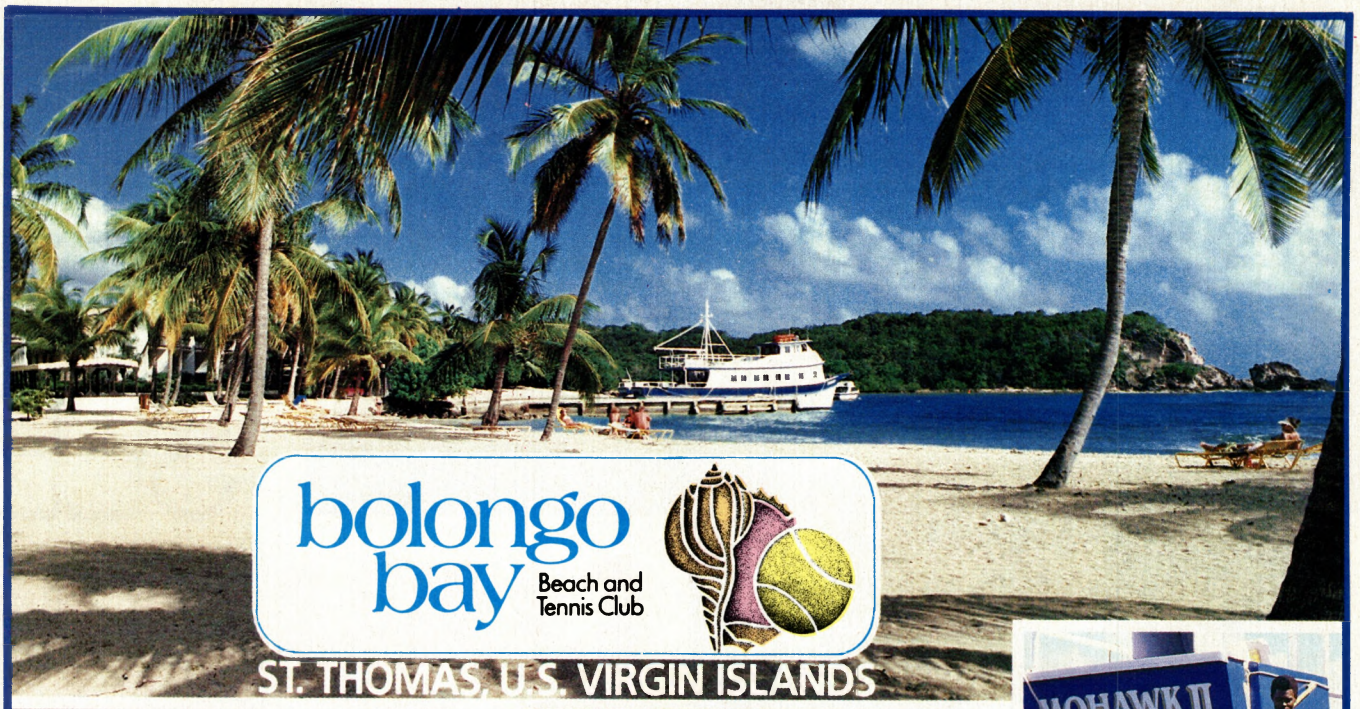
It was sometimes difficult to realize I was only a few hours from Manila. There is quite a contrast between the fast-paced urban lifestyle and highrises of the city and the fish and farming communities in the Batangas area. But then, contrast and differences in cultures may be the main reasons for exotic travel. From a diving, cultural and travel point of view, Batangas does not disappoint.

For more information on dive packages for any of the three resorts mentioned in this article contact: Philippine Airlines, 447 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108; phone (415) 391-0270 or (800) 554-5444.



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bolongo bay Beach and Tennis Club

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS





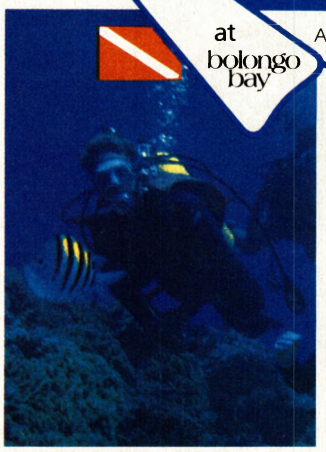


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For the past 8 years, Bolongo has been known as the beachfront resort that's always full. And we're proud to say that's true! So, we've doubled our size (added 45 rooms) and can now invite you to see why we've consistently run the highest occupancy in the Caribbean. In addition to the new rooms, we've totally refurbished the "old" rooms, added a second restaurant by our 4 tennis courts, built a new dive center and added a meeting room for groups. To insure our continued success, we still include Continental breakfast in our room rate, free Sunfish sailing, use of snorkel gear, an all-day sail to St. John, use of tennis courts, plenty of Caribbean sun and one of the friendliest staffs you'll ever encounter. Windsurfing and Aquabiking are also available at our 1,000′ beach. As for diving, one of our 4 dive boats (ranging in size from 25′ to 68′) departs from our very own dock. A total vacation . . . with diving, too!

All rooms are luxury beachfront units with kitchenettes, air-conditioning, color cable TV, telephones and private balconies.





8 days/7 nights
From $705.00 Diver
455.00 Non-Diver

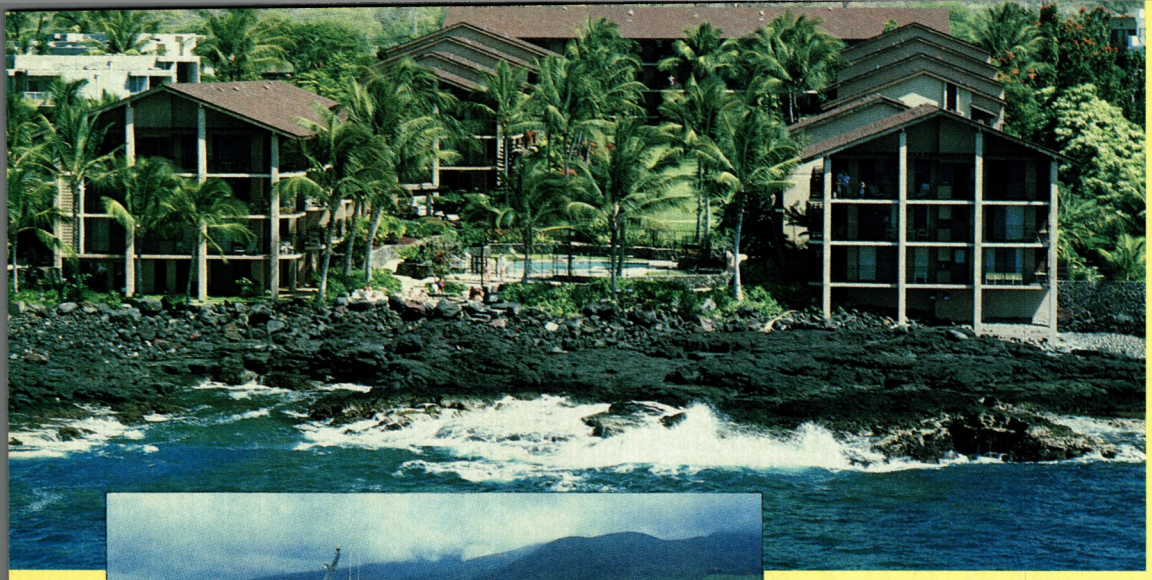
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For information, call Toll Free **800-524-4746.**



Divers choosing the Kona Coast as their Real Hawaii destination will stay at either the Kona Reef or the Kona Makai (left). Both are on a lava stone beach.

SEE HAWAII



photo/courtesy Real Hawaii
photo/courtesy Lahaina Divers

Maui's Lahaina Divers has two boats, the 31 foot *Nomad* and the 43 foot *Reliant*, shown above. Comfortable vessels, they cruise at 20 knots, making them ideally suited for trips to Lanai and Molokini Crater. Each has a shower and a head.



photo/Howard Getzoff

Aquatics Kauai's *Odysseus* is a fast, 44 foot, diesel powered boat with shower, head and galley. She makes full day trips to Mana Crack from June to September but any trip aboard her is comfortable and easy. She has lots of deck space.

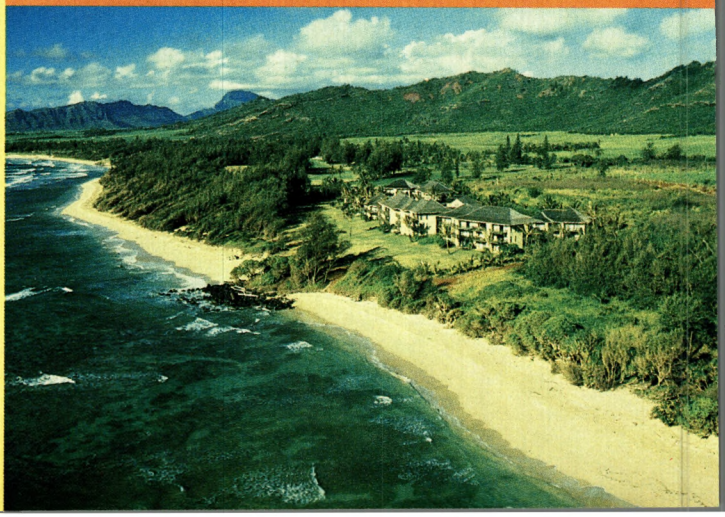
Kona Coast Divers has a fast, new, all aluminum Munson boat, the 34 foot *Diver One*. She has been customized for divers; getting into and out of the water is easy. *Diver One* carries 14 divers to sites no more than 30 minutes away.





photos/courtesy Real Hawaii

Divers stay at the Hale Ono Loa (above) or the Maui Sunset if they visit Maui with Real Hawaii. If Kauai is the island chosen, they stay at the Kaha Lanai (below). All offer deluxe accommodations with full kitchens, washer/dryers, etc. Lushly landscaped, they have swimming pools and tennis courts.



with REAL HAWAII

A DIVE VACATION PACKAGE THAT'S TRULY A BARGAIN

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Hawaii holds a very special place in my heart. My first visit here produced a number of other firsts: first warm water dive, first cavern dive, first night dive, first deep dive. It was also my introduction to the world of marine mollusks and flooded cameras! Hawaiian diving opened my eyes to the wonders of tropical waters and made me eager to experience other places I read about in this magazine every month. That's why it was 12 years before I returned. But, return I did, in April of this year. And, I don't think it'll be another 12 years before I go back.

I had forgotten how beautiful these islands are. They are the quintessential Polynesian paradise, with palm trees, tropical foliage and fragrant flowers. The trade winds keep the skies free of pollution and bright blue. The beaches may be white or black sand but they are pristine and lead down to the clear blue Pacific.

Hawaiian diving is generally shallow, with excellent visibility—75 to 100 plus feet—and wonderful fish life. Yellow tangs, fantailed filefish, unicornfish, hawkfish, surgeonfish, lionfish, trumpetfish, parrotfish and Moorish idols are just a few of the abundant species. If you are, or want to become, a fish photographer, this is the place for you. You can also expect to see spotted and moray eels—many of which have become accustomed to being handfed—as well as turtles, octopus and both spiny and slipper lobsters. Manta rays are not uncommon. Humpback whales congregate around Maui from November to April. Although there are strict laws against harassing them, you can enjoy their performances topside and there is always the possiblity of a chance encounter underwater.

Macro photographers will find colorful invertebrate life in Hawaii's low profile corals and in the many nooks and crannies provided by the lava rock that forms much of the shoreline. Water temperatures average about 80°F in the summer and 73°F in the winter. Among Hawaii's many plusses is the fact there is no fire coral here!

NO PASSPORTS/NO HASSLES

After many foreign dive trips, I had forgotten how really nice it is not to have to worry about passports and visas, foreign currency and language, and customs. Although Hawaii's tropical ambiance makes you feel you're in a foreign country, you're not. This is the good old USA and there are none of the hassles of foreign travel. And, although it is easy to escape civilization here, it is just as easy to find it. Thus, if you forget something or need to buy anything, chances are it will be available someplace nearby.

Among my personal peculiarities is this one: I *hate* making my own travel arrangements. What I love is someone else doing all the work and telling me when and where to show up. Thus, you can understand why I am fond of Real Hawaii.



Real Hawaii vactioners fly from the U.S. mainland to the islands on Hawaiian Airlines.

This is a one-stop tour company that can book your round trip airplane flight, condo, rental car and diving. Tell them your travel dates and where you want to go, they do the rest. And, you get one, all inclusive bill.

Real Hawaii's dive vacations take you to one of three islands. Choosing which one will be your most difficult decision: Will it be the Big Island (Hawaii), the Garden Island (Kauai) or the Valley Island (Maui)? No matter what your choice, you will fly from Los Angeles, San Francisco or Los Angeles, via Hawaiian Airlines, to Honolulu. From there you will catch a connecting flight to your final destination. If you requested a rental car through Real Hawaii, contact Tropical Rent-A-Car upon arrival and they will have your air conditioned compact ready.

THE DIVE OPERATORS

If you decide on the Big Island, you will dive with Kona Coast Divers. Owned and operated by Jim and Julie Robinson, it is a full service facility with sale and rental equipment, air fills, pool and an in-store classroom used by its team of instructors to teach basic, resort and specialty courses. A handsome, gray shingled building right in Kailua-Kona, it looks like a New England lighthouse. Divers and snorkelers meet at the store, then climb into one of Kona Coast's vans for the short trip to the harbor. There they board the brand new *Diver One*. A fast, all aluminum Munson workboat, she is a gleaming beauty 34 feet long and customized especially for divers. Getting into the water is easy: Just sit on the raised platform at the stern and let the crew help you put on your tank and BC, conveniently stored just steps away. When you're ready, stand up and make a gaint stride into the water. Getting back on board is equally easy. Although Coast Guard certified for 22 passengers, *Diver One* carries no more than 14.

Kona Coast Divers visits different sites every day, depending on the weather and water conditions and guests' wishes. My favorite spot was Captain Cook. South of town, it is a protected cove, with a monument on shore commemorating Captain Cook's landing in the Hawaiian Islands. The divemasters can give you a colorful account of what happened to him. The cove is a preserve, visited by a number of diving and snorkeling groups. The fish are tame and plentiful. The first thing I saw as I finned away from the boat to-

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Skin Diver Magazine, 1987



Casa Del Mar, Cozumel's "Hottest New Dive Resort," is totally dedicated to the needs of travelling divers. Its 106 rooms, pool, hot tub and two restaurants are all located just a minute away from its oceanfront dive center, DEL MAR AQUATICS:

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SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

$419.00 8 days 7 nights per pers. dbl. occ.

Includes:
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- Captain, mate and divemaster on all boat dives
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REAL HAWAII

ward shore was a turtle, the only one I have seen U/W in 14 years of diving. Low profile corals are abundant, and despite its popularity, the reefs look pristine.

A Kona Coast Divers divemaster is always in the water to lead an informal tour of each area. Although certified divers may go off on their own in buddy teams, if they do, they'll miss seeing eels that can be petted and certain other creatures the divemasters are experts at finding.

If you decide to take a Real Hawaii vacation trip to Maui, you'll be diving with Lahaina Divers. Owned by Blain Roberts and managed by Laurie Bachelor, it offers equipment rentals and sales, certification and specialty classes, air fills and everything else you would expect of a PADI Five Star Facility.

Lahaina Divers is especially proud of its two boats, the 43 foot *Reliant* and the 31 foot *Nomad*. Both cruise at 20 knots, making trips to Lanai and Molokini Crater quick and easy. Although certified for 25, the *Reliant* carries only 16. En route to the dive sites, guests sit on padded seats that have plenty of storage space underneath them. Both shaded and unshaded areas are available and there is a specially padded table for cameras. The smaller *Nomad* carries only 10, but is no less comfortable than the larger *Reliant*. Both boats have freshwater showers and heads. Diving from either boat is easy. The crew helps each person gear up and get into the water and is no less attentive when it comes time to reboard the boats.

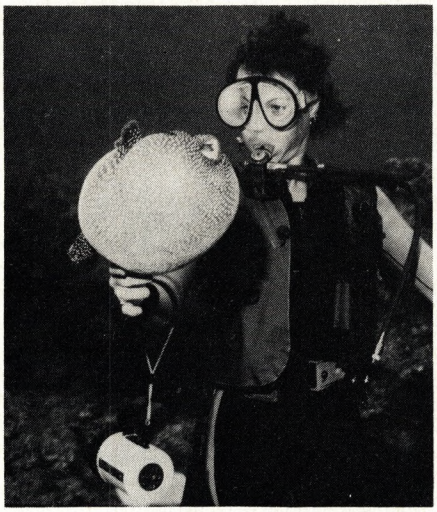
Although Maui does have some shallow reefs that offer good diving, the best sites are off Lanai and Molokini Crater. On my first Hawaiian trip 12 years ago, I did all my diving off Lanai and enjoyed it immensely. Lava tubes and tunnels add intrigue and interest as well as providing homes for a myriad of invertebrates.

Molokini Crater, a marine park, is popular with both divers and snorkelers. All that remains topside is a crescent of land. Depths inside the submerged, one-half mile wide crater range from 10 to 100 feet. Molokini is home to Garbanzo, Freebee and Cocoa, friendly moray eels that are used to posing for pictures. If conditions are good and the divers experienced, a dive can be made on the outside of the crater—a sheer, vertical wall—where there is the chance of seeing large marine life.

Lahaina Divers welcomes snorkelers and has no objections to certified divers going off on their own in buddy pairs. Remember, however, their divemasters know where to find the marine life for which you could spend an entire dive fruitlessly searching!

Should you make Kauai your Real Ha-

waii destination choice, you will be diving with Aquatics Kauai. Owned and operated by Howard Getzoff and Pete Ricciardi, this full service dive store is in Kapaa, on the east side of Kauai. Gear sales, rentals and repairs (usually in one day) are available. PADI, NAUI and SSI basic certifications are offered, as well as advanced and specialty courses. At the time of this writing, Aquatics Kauai had just taken delivery of the *Odysseus*, a custom built dive boat. Forty-four feet long, she is powered by twin diesels with lots of deck space, a freshwater shower, head and galley. This makes her perfectly suited for special, full day (7:30 am—5:30 pm) trips to Mana Crack, one and one-half hours away on Kauai's west coast.



photos/Jim Robinson

Two dives are made and a box lunch is served during the surface interval. Passengers may divide their time sunning on the open deck or sitting inside the cabin in the shade. Because it is a fairly long trip and sea conditions are not always favorable, Mana Crack is not dived much. Aquatics Kauai only offers the trip from mid-June to mid-September when the seas are usually calm. Visibility at the site averages 100 feet. There are lava tubes, drop-offs and lots of fish and invertebrates. Howard Getzoff calls a visit to the site "sensory innundation."

Although Coast Guard certified for 25, *Odysseus* carries only 15 passengers, even on the usual one-half day, two tank dives. Snorkelers are always welcome. As is true with the other dive operators mentioned in this article, Aquatics Kauai has no objections to certified divers going off on their own. Two instructors are in the water on each dive, however, and are available for casual, guided tours.

If guests wish, Aqautics Kauai will have an underwater photographer videotape or shoot stills of them during their dives so they have visual records of their trip. And, next door to the dive shop, Camera Lab can develop your E-6 slide or color print film so you can see how well your equipment and techniques are working.

Since you'll have several days and afternoons free, you might consider renting



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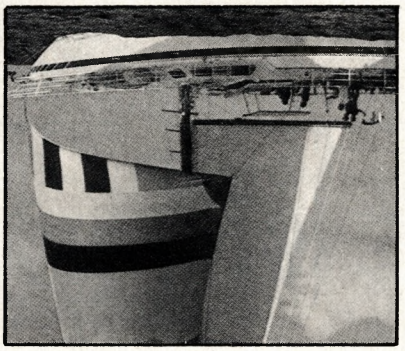
Poseidon Ventures
Down Under
Dive Great Barrier Reef & Coral Sea

HERON ISLAND The only diving resort situated on the Great Barrier Reef, Heron Island offers access to some of the world's finest diving. Full dive facilities include four dive boats and over 60 rental scuba tanks. Only 26 minutes from Gladstone by helicopter, Heron is the home ground of tame moray eels, friendly manta rays, sea turtles (seasonal), and a huge variety of fish and coral. This colorful sea life makes it ideal for underwater photography. Lodging is available to fit most budgets and includes three meals and two dives per day, as well as tanks, weights and air.

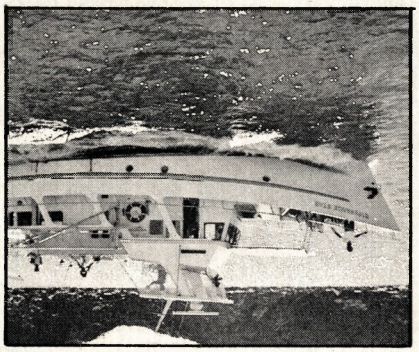
For Heron Island information call: (714) 786-0119

For reservations or information: Poseidon Ventures Tours • 359 San Miguel Dr. • Newport Beach, CA 92660 • (714) 644-5344 or (800) 854-9334 • Also: 505 N. Belt, Suite 675 • Houston, TX 77060 • (713) 820-DIVE

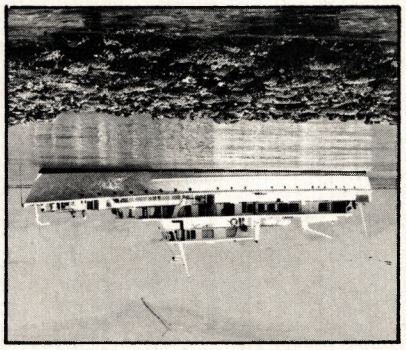
55'' Scheherazade
6 Divers. Motor Sailor. Dep: from Cairns to Ribbon Reefs and Coral Sea.



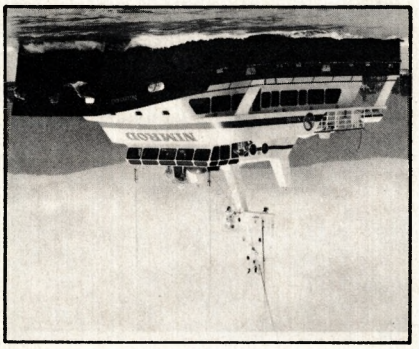
55'' MV Esperance Star
8 Divers. Dep: from Cairns to Ribbon Reefs and Lizard Is.



112' MV CORAL PRINCESS
24 Divers. Dep: from Cairns or Townsville. Ribbon Reefs, Coral Sea, Yongala Wreck.



65' MV NIMROD
16 Divers. Deluxe Catamaran. Dep: from Cairns to Ribbon Reefs and Coral Sea.



"Australia's Great Barrier Reef State."

Queensland

a moutain bike from Aquatics Kauai and touring the lush, green Garden Island.

THE CONDOS

Real Hawaii sends you a map showing how to get to your condo, as well as a topside attractions map. Whether you choose Maui, Kauai or the Kona Coast of Hawaii, you will stay in a deluxe condo, right on the ocean. It will have a swimming pool and tennis courts. It will have its own, private lanai, be spacious, tastefully decorated and fully equipped right down to kitchen utensils, linens and



washer/dryer. On Kona, the Kona Makai or Kona Reef are surrounded by palm trees and greenery that are a beautiful contrast to the red soil and black lava rock shoreline. On Maui you might stay at either the Hale Ono Loa or the Maui Sunset, both of which offer similar tropical ambiance. On Kauai, you will stay at the Kaha Lani, which has a long, private sandy beach. On Maui or Kona, photographers and non photographers will love the gorgeous sunsets; on Kauai your days may begin with a lovely sunrise.

TOPSIDE ACTIVITIES

The Real Hawaii package is for eight days, seven nights, although longer stays can be arranged. Included in the package are three days of two-tank morning dives. (Afternoon and night dives are available upon request and the cost is extra.) This means you have every afternoon as well as three entire days free for other activities. This is an ideal vacation for those who find topside photography as enjoyable as underwater photography; those who enjoy sightseeing topside; or those with a nondiving spouse or family. Hawaii has a lot to offer those who don't dive. It is very tourist oriented and there is an incredible amount of literature detailing what there is to see and do on

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each island. Honolulu airport is especially lush with this literature. If you've never been to Hawaii before, you'll be amazed at the variety of activities. There are active and inactive volcanoes to climb up and bicycle down; helicopter tours; brunch, lunch and sunset dinner cruises along the coasts; and whale watching boat trips. With your Tropical rental car you get unlimited mileage; driving around the islands you'll discover just how beautiful they are and how much they have to offer. There are macadamia nut orchards and various flower farms to visit. You'll see lava flows and waterfalls, sugar cane and onion fields and pineapple plantations; and both black sand and white sand beaches. Hawaii has a colorful history and it's fun to visit a princess' summer home in Kailua-Kona; the old whaling village of Lahaina and a number of other spots that had an important part in the islands' past.

BOOKING YOUR TRIP

For more information or to book your entire Hawaiian vacation package with just one call, contact: Real Hawaii, 900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1605, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813; (800) 367-5108. For just $799—based on Wednesday (each way) travel—you get round trip air fare from Los Angeles, San Francisco or Seattle; seven nights in a deluxe condominium; seven days of compact car rental; and three days of two tank boat dives. Traveling on other days will cost you $40 to $80 more, but a Real Hawaii dive vacation is still a real bargain.

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SEA BASS

(Continued from Page 46)

lengths of three feet and can weigh more than 20 pounds.

Economically, the sea bass is a main staple of the commercial fisheries industry in the Middle Atlantic states and also provides an important resource for the sportfishing industry along the East Coast. Recreational fishermen find the fish a worthy adversary.

Shipwreck divers often overlook the possibility of fishing for sea bass during those long surface intervals between dives. This method appeals to many individuals who find it difficult to handle a speargun. The sea bass diet consists of shellfish, small fish and squid, with the latter being an excellent choice as bait. If you forget to visit your local bait store in time to purchase squid, the supermarket has it under the name *calamari.* Many dive boats along the East Coast also charter for fishing and may have fishing tackle on board. Check with your boat captain as to availability of equipment and concerning his/her regulations regarding fishing on a diving trip.

Spearfishermen must use all of their stalking skills when hunting for the sea bass. On shipwrecks, the fish are very timid and swim for cover when a diver approaches. Because of their small size and their cautiousness, they add new meaning to the word *hunt.* Spearfishermen who bag a sea bass experience a real sense of accomplishment.

Once caught, the fish should be put on ice as soon as possible to keep it fresh and also to make filleting easier. This is an art that takes some practice to master. Don't be discouraged by botched attempts in the beginning; it is the only way to learn. The key to successful filleting is a sharp knife and a cold fish. Start by making a diagonal cut just behind the pectoral fin from the beginning of the dorsal fin to the pelvic fin. Then make another cut at the base of the tail. Make a third cut along the dorsal fin from the tail to the head, following with an identical cut from tail to head along the bottom of the fish. These last two cuts should be shallow and should only separate the meat from the backbone. Starting at the top of the fish, work your knife along the backbone and separate the fillet from the bone. Repeat this process on the other side of the fish.

The last step in the process is to remove the outer skin. Place the fillet on the cutting board with the skin side down. Starting at the tail, cut down through the flesh and turn the knife flat against the skin with the sharp edge of the blade facing toward the wide portion of the fillet. Use a gentle sawing motion and separate the skin from the flesh. After filleting,

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check the fish for bones and wash it in fresh water. You're now ready for the fun part: cooking and eating the fish!

Sea bass often produces a thick fillet that can be difficult to fry. Undercooking will produce a mushy center while overcooking will result in a dried-out fillet. Slicing the fillets into thinner pieces will allow a more evenly cooked meal. One of my favorite recipes is Sea Bass Nuggets. Cut the fish into bite size nuggets, dip them in flour and then into a beaten egg. finally, roll into bread crumbs. Put a small amount of cooking oil into a frying pan and fry the nuggets about two minutes per side until they are golden brown. Serve as an appetizer with cocktail or tartar sauce.

Fillets may be frozen for later use. In our household, the middle of February is a perfect time. When the winter wind is howling and snow is on the ground, there is nothing quite as nice as a seafood dinner and, as seafood dinners go, sea bass is a winner!

BROILED SEA BASS

Sprinkle the fillets with pepper and paprika, dot with butter and broil about five minutes on each side, depending on thickness. The total broiling time will be 7 to 12 minutes. The fish should be golden brown. If cooked too thoroughly it will be dry and fall to pieces.

SEA BASS AU GRATIN

2 lbs. sea bass fillets
1 large tomato, sliced thin
12 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded
Bread crumbs
Cooking oil
Parsley, chopped

Bread only one side of the fillets. Heat oil in the skillet and put the fillets in, breaded side down. Top with tomato slices and shredded cheese. sprinkle a small amount of parsley on top. Cover the skillet and fry until the cheese melts. Serves four people.

SPLASH 1987

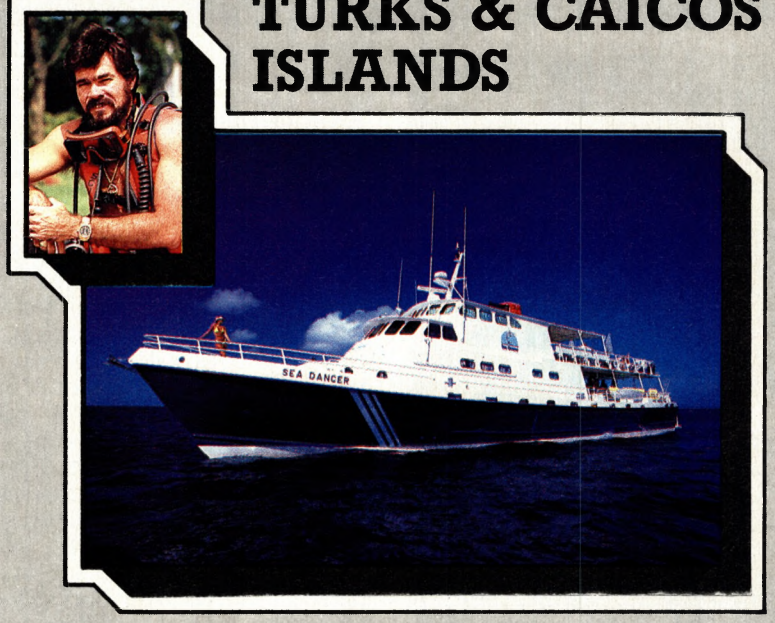
October will see 800 divers from around the U.S. descending on Cozumel for Splash 1987. Treasure hunts, underwater photo contests, barbecues and a unique homemade bikini contest (open to men and women) highlight this diving party, held October 11-28.

Divers may book a three, five or seven day trip during this period and still enjoy all the festivities. Since space is extremely limited, according to Don Mears, organizer of the event, trips should be booked as soon as possible. More than $10,000 in prizes will be awarded from sponsors such as Continental Airlines and Nikon (who will also provide free photo seminars). Tecate Beer is also sponsoring this year's Splash.

Arrangements may be made by contacting Two Worlds Travel (800) 446-2166; in Texas (713) 446-2166.

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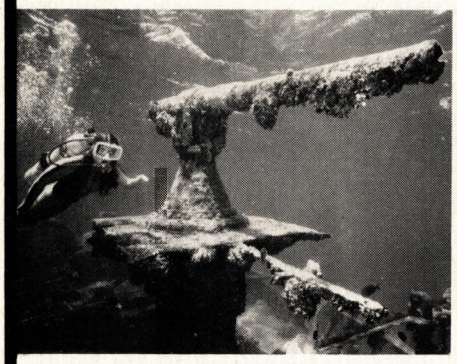
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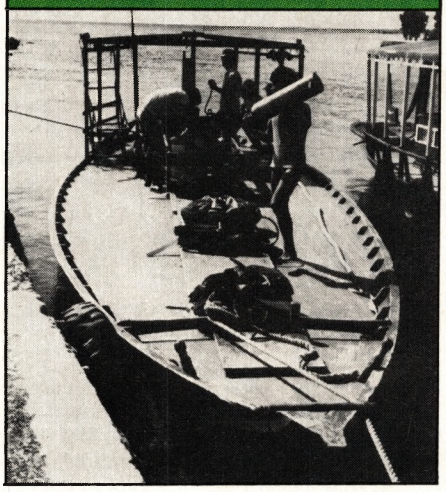
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THE MALDIVES

GIANT, TAME FISHLIFE HIGHLIGHT OF INDIAN OCEAN ADVENTURE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER T. WILSON



When I told a friend my company had won a contract to do some work in the Maldives, he asked, "Where's that?" Since then, I have found this to be a normal response from Americans when I tell them about this incredible group of islands. Europeans are a great deal more aware of the Maldives. Many German, French and Italian tourists discovered this vacation mecca shortly after it opened the first of some 50 resorts developed here since the mid 1970s. Each resort is on its own island with spectacular, isolated beaches and clear, warm water, perfect for diving and swimming.

During my first few trips to the Maldives, my work schedule did not allow much time for diving. Besides, no one seemed particularly excited about what the area had to offer. Then, I made a dive off Kurumba, a resort island in the Male atoll, and was amazed at how tame and how large the fish were. This dive was followed by others off other resort areas and I became more impressed with the quality of diving in the Maldives.

While on a recent trip to these islands, I stayed on the resort island of Villingili while waiting for construction to be completed on the new tuna cannery. During this respite, I stopped in the local dive shop to learn about the diving from the German owner, Herbert Unger. He has been in the Maldives some seven years and is true to his ethnic origin, being both very thorough and efficient. His dive shop is well laid out. Also, he has devised a simple and unique method of cleaning and drying the gear after a dive. It is sim-

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ply dumped in a well of fresh water and hung up to dry in the trees and racks; a real high-tech system.

Unger was very hospitable and extended a welcome invitation to go for a dive. Well, why not? His gear was first rate, the boat was good and the diving close by. So, off I went at the appointed time, 14:45. Everything was ready to go. All of the other divers were German, rather aloof, as is typical of them with strangers, particularly a non-German speaking one.

As divemaster, Unger took charge, assigning me a lady buddy. Off we went on a diesel powered *dhoni* to a reef very close to the island on which we were staying. Herbert called it Han's Place. The *dhoni* is stable, low to the water and easy to get both into and out of.

When we were at anchor over the dive area, Unger pulled out a plastic board and drew a picture of our dive site and discussed it with us.

The water was spectacularly clear. At first, bubbles rising from a couple of divers directly below me blocked my view of the drop-off and bottom. After rinsing my mask, things cleared and I saw the drop-off had abundant fish of various types and sizes and the reef fauna was both very rich and diversified.

Having spent years diving on many tropical islands throughout the Pacific, and being trained as a fisheries biologist, I feel qualified in stating the diving in the Maldives, particularly as it relates to the fish, is probably some of the best, if not the best, in the world.

One has to understand the customs of the Maldivians to know why the reef fish are so large in both numbers and size. To put it quite simply, these fish are literally dying of old age. The Maldivians do not eat reef fish, preferring skipjack tuna. Resort owners do not allow tourists to spearfish, nor does the government. Further, the government does not allow fishing with nets. Consequently, no one catches reef fish unless they are fishing with a hook and line for the hotel table and this is always done away from dive sites. As a consequence, all of the reef fish have become fat, tame, lazy and some, even overbearing when you intrude on "their" property. I was swimming along the top of a drop-off when a large brown triggerfish about one-half meter long came screaming up out of the depths, stopping no more than an arm's length away. Cheeky devil, but startle me he did.

As we swam down the face of the drop-off, I began looking for various old friends in habitats they occupy in other tropical seas. A visual slide show of various types of corals—sea fans, soft corals and black coral trees—abounded. Under the first overhang, in water 50-60 feet deep, we encountered the largest concentration of sweetlips I have ever seen. They were all about a foot long and their bright yellows, blacks and whites were truly beautiful. I swam through them and

(Continued on Page 130)

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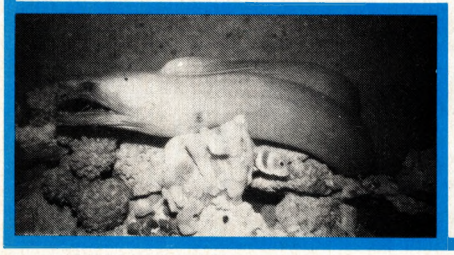
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DOWN UNDER

(Continued from Page 80)

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PACIFIC HARBOUR

(Continued from Page 79)

deep V-shaped crevice. The site is a living rainbow of soft corals, crinoids, emperor and imperial angelfish, clown triggerfish and vivid red tomato anemones.

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LOVE NOTE WITHOUT BURNING

(Thanks to surfers!)

Reva Ezell: Atlanta, Georgia

This is a love note . . . I am an avid diver/snorkeller who just happens to have an intensely adverse reaction to UV rays. My dermatologist, an unimaginative sort, told me to find a new hobby. Nonsense.

Last week my husband and I went to Grand Cayman, and I was very apprehensive about what the UV exposure would do to me. Being free-spirited is one thing; dying is another. I brought along sunscreen, hats, gloves, scarves, capes — everything but a shroud.



At Bob Soto's Dive Shop at Eden Rock, a clerk noted my bizarre attire and suggested I try a sample of BULLFROG. "BULL is right," I thought, "but the last four letters are wrong." My husband, tired of schlepping umbrellas in our dive bag, convinced me to try your weird product. The bottom line, friends, is that BULLFROG works! We spent eight full days on boats, in the water and on beaches. I still wore a sunhat on land and diveskin in the water, but my face, hands and neck were protected only by BULLFROG. I can't believe it, but my skin looks better than it did before we went to Cayman. Before BULLFROG, I got lesions just from a few minutes' exposure even to fluorescent lights. Now, I use BULLFROG every day of the year.

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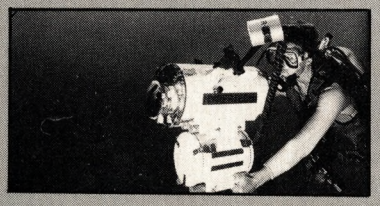
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EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 9)

choice should be the one that is right for *you*. Here are some simple criteria that may help you with the selection process:

Price—If price is a serious consideration, then the analog consoles are going to look very attractive. These devices have been around a long time and their designs have been perfected. Since analog consoles are produced in the greatest quantity, their manufacturing cost per unit is somewhat less. This cost break is passed along to the consumer.

Availability—If you need an instrument console right now, availability becomes a major factor. The new console designs are going to be pretty scarce for the remainder of this year. This is because all digital and dive computer models are presently being manufactured in small quantities. There are many advance orders that must be filled before we will see these consoles in significant quantities.

Need—Perhaps the most important considerations are your personal diving needs. There is no sense in purchasing an extremely expensive, advanced instrument if you need a simple one.

A good example is the classic story of the typewriter and the computer. When PCs became available in large quantities, some experts predicted the typewriter would be obsolete. This has not happened. Computers do complex work (including typing) but typewriters can do simple work much faster and easier. The end result is that typewriters still outnumber computers.

Now, let's talk about your needs as a diver. If you are the traditional type, who learned to tell time on an old-fashioned analog clock, you will probably be more comfortable with an analog console. The dial face is easy to read in one glance.

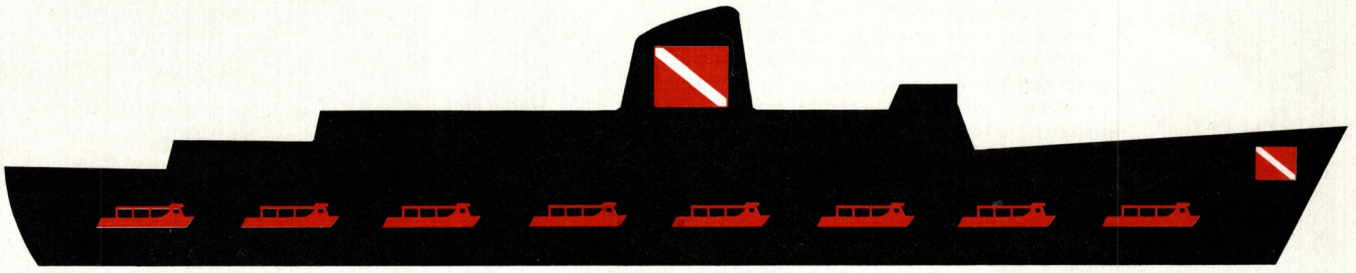
If you are the traditional type, engaged in repetitive diving (two to five dives daily), you may find the analog/digital console very handy. The digital timer makes it easier to keep track of bottom times and surface interval times. Calculation of the repet dive tables becomes a snap.

On the other hand, if you are a high-tech fan who really enjoys digital readouts and flashing symbols, the all digital console may be just the ticket. It is impressive, it is fun and it is certainly worth waiting for.

If you are a serious or advanced diver who does a lot of repet and multi-level dives, the computer console may be a major consideration. This device is of tremendous assistance in automatically calculating optimum depths and times for each dive.

Now that we have swept away the confusion over dive consoles, it's time to go shopping. And, may the best console win!

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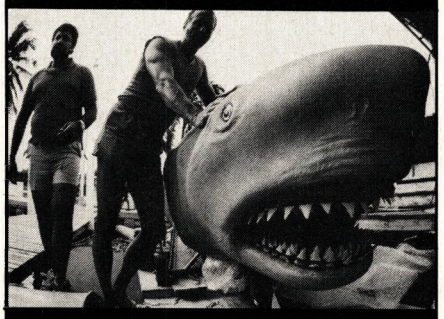
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JAWS
THE REVENGE



Behind The Scenes Of Jaws IV

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK MCKENNEY

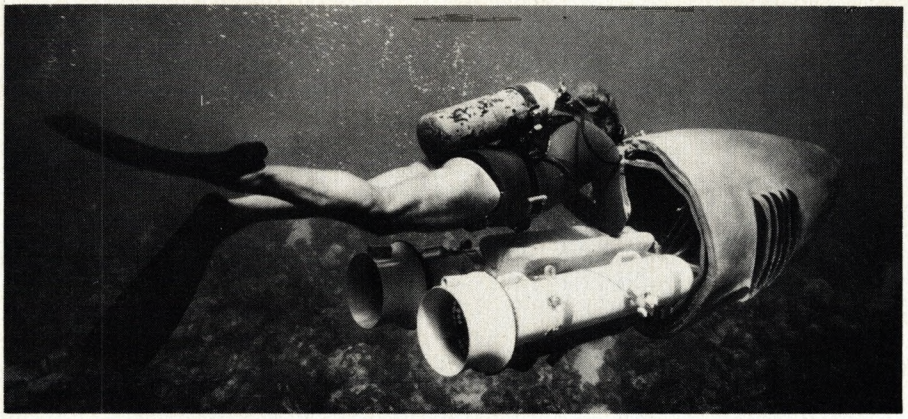
Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water, Bruce rears his ugly head again, splashing, frolicking and devouring his way across the big silver screen. For the fourth time, millions of dollars were spent. Hundreds of people descended on Martha's Vineyard and the Bahamas to produce a film about one of the most feared, misunderstood and maligned creatures ever to swim in our oceans—the great white shark.

The original *Jaws* was one of the largest grossing films of all time. To date it has made somewhere in the neighborhood of $260,000,000. Then, true to Hollywood form, *Jaws II* splashed across the screen, grossing $77,000,000. It was followed by *Jaws 3D*, which brought in a respectable $45,500,000. Since all of the films made lots of money, Universal said "Why not do another?"

It never ceases to amaze me how effective movies are in setting trends, creating fashions overnight and sometimes creating complete and utter havoc within certain industries. And, the diving industry was right in the line of fire of Bruce's big toothy maw.

Soon after the original *Jaws* was released, many dive shops started to lose business. People have always been afraid of sharks, and seeing that monstrous great white in vivid color, eating its bloodthirsty, vindictive way across the big silver screen, conjured up all the worst nightmares anyone ever had about these fish. Hollywood made it seem all too real.

What's going to happen this time around? From the little bit of research I did, I found *Jaws II* and *3D* didn't have nearly the impact on the diving industry the original version did, for a couple of reasons: First, the sequels weren't quite so frightening—or as well done as the original—and secondly, the novelty had



John McLaughlin maneuvers Bruce Jr. Opening page: Jack McKenney with the "wabbit".

worn off somewhat.

You've got to be pretty creative to spend $30,000,000 on just a movie. But, when you consider the location; the number of people involved; the high salaries paid; the sets and in this case—especially—the props; housing for everyone; transportation and support elements; and bad weather delays, it doesn't take long to spend that much. Of course, Michael Caine's salary, $6,000,000, was a big piece of change.

There were no live sharks used in the film—only mechanical ones worth about $2,000,000. Bruce was 24 feet long and ran on 80 feet of underwater track. He could open and close his mouth, roll his eyes and undulate his body in a swimming mode. Another version of Bruce was a dorsal fin only that was towed behind a boat. Our favorite was Bruce Jr., dubbed the "Wabbit."

Bruce Jr. was half a shark, about five feet long, whose motion was provided by three diver propulsion vehicles. Controls moved his eyes and mouth. A diver would be on a small platform on top of the DPVs and operate the controls. The first time we got the 500 pound shark into the water, it made a rapid nose dive for the bottom. Special effects had sent over a small inner tube that was stuffed inside Bruce for buoyancy control. Naturally the tube burst almost as soon as we got it into the water and it took the combined efforts of Big John McLaughlin and Courtney Brown, two veteran divers from Florida, to wrestle it to the surface. They then stuffed a BC jacket inside and things started to look up.

The idea was to film the front half of Bruce Jr. from the gill slits forward with a diver in the foreground swimming frantically, trying to get away from the big fish. By using a very wide angle lens, Pete Romano, the underwater director of photography, was able to force the perspective to match the size to Bruce Sr.

We shot a test underwater and felt that it could work, but something just didn't look right. Later we realized the overall paint job was rather anemic. Also, the red mouth was too bright and there were no scrapes or scars—which you'd normally see—on the shark. However, the test gave the director an idea as to whether or not it had good possibilities for one or two scenes.

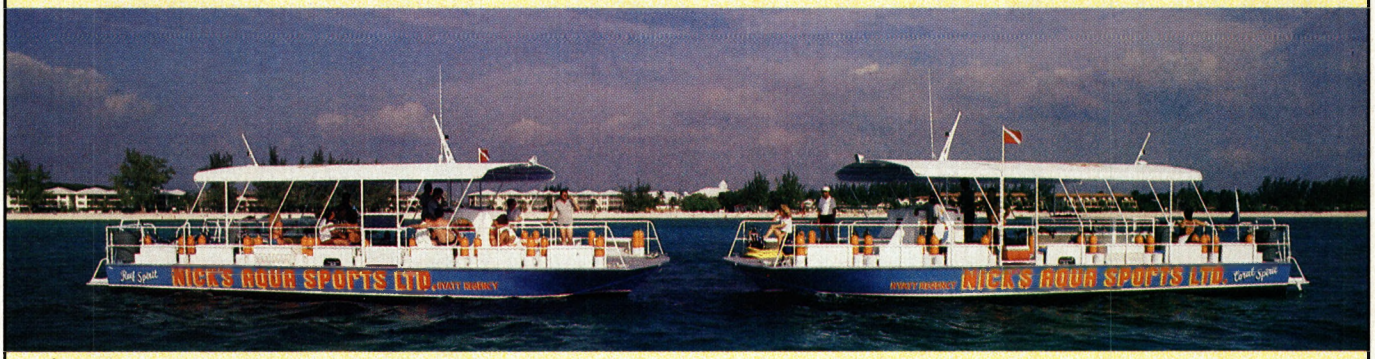
When dailies were screened the following night it was apparent we were watching a mechanical shark. We saw that just the right angle would have to be filmed and the cuts would have to be quickly edited to make it work. The projectionist was asked to run the film a second time. Everyone was quiet and very intent as they studied the image on the screen. Then Joe Sargent said "Gawd, it looks like a rabbit!"

So, when you walk out of the theater this summer with images of Bruce, bloodthirstily devouring his way from Amityville to Nassau, just remember, it's only a mechanical "wabbit."

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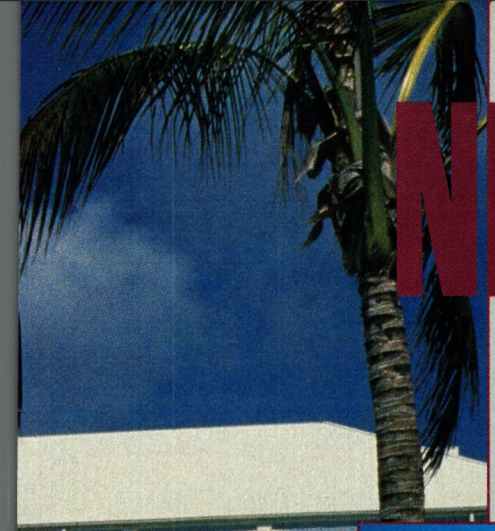
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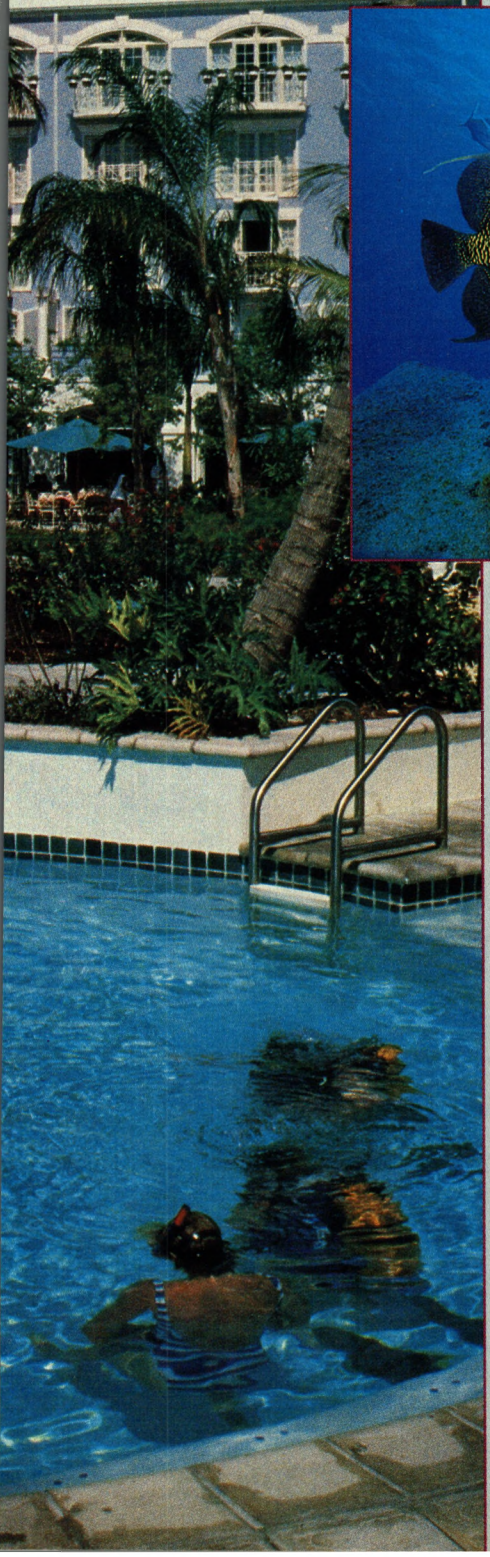
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NICK'S AT THE HYATT REGENCY GRAND CAYMAN













Left: Guests learn scuba in the Hyatt pool. Above, from top: Fish feeding on the *Oro Verde*; Nick's dive boats can cruise at 20 knots; special boarding ramp; divemasters assist guests at the 16 foot wide stern platform.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

There is a buzz of excitement in the Caribbean. Grand Cayman has a new Hyatt Regency and it is a honey! This $50 million world-class resort adds a new dimension to Cayman's appeal. Along with the Hyatt Regency comes Nick's Aqua Sports, a new, first class dive operation that matches the high standards of Hyatt service.

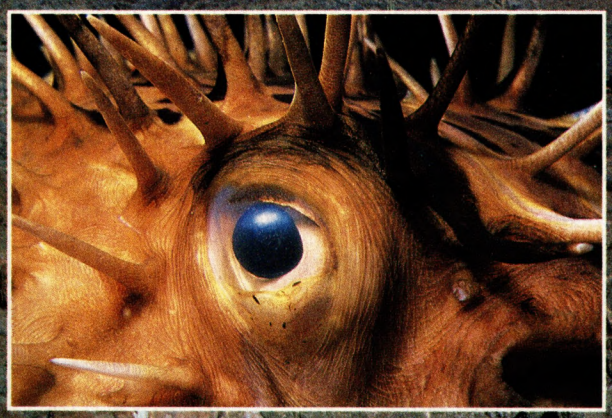
Together, Nick's and Hyatt offer a unique opportunity to enjoy the best of the Caribbean in a luxurious style previously unimagined. While the Hyatt Regency may not be for everyone, it will be of interest and excitement to the folks from Beverly Hills, Grosse Pointe and Tuxedo Park.

The Hyatt Regency is on an 88 acre swath of paradise called Britannia. This lavish Garden of Eden includes a unique nine hole golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus, a cluster of exclusive villa style condominiums overlooking the fairways and a beach club complete with a swimming pool, restaurant and watersports center. Britannia is on the west side of the island and stretches from the shores of fabulous Seven Mile Beach to the inland waterways of North Sound. And, sitting right in the middle of Britannia-Land is the Hyatt Regency.

The hotel is centrally located in the Seven Mile Beach district. The shopping malls and business center of George Town are just two miles south. Within a mile of the hotel are at least a dozen fine restaurants and Grand Cayman's spectacular drop-offs are just a few minutes away by boat.

The 235 room Hyatt Regency is a collection of low rise buildings arranged in a somewhat rectangular courtyard fashion. With its light blue and pure white color scheme, the hotel is reminiscent of the British colonial era of the last century. The open air lobby has an almost courtly ambiance, with an array of sculptures, paintings and stonework.

The central courtyard area is a magnificently designed complex of gardens, waterfalls, fountains, decorative pools and pathways. Some guests find this garden so lovely and private they will



LORETO

MEXICO'S NEW IN-SPOT

ON THE SEA OF CORTEZ



On the eastern shore of the central Baja peninsula, Loreto, Mexico looks out across the Sea of Cortez. Since the establishment of the settlement in 1670, the population has clustered around the old Spanish mission. Just south of Loreto the mountain range known as Sierra de la Giganta emerges from the cape and runs into the sea. Here the desert ridge meets the fertile ocean. The rugged and harsh beauty of rock and cactus creates a striking topside world in Loreto, but the Sea of Cortez is something different.

For years sportfishermen have known how rich Loreto's waters are. We divers owe them a bit of thanks. The new jetport was built primarily to accommodate their increased traffic. That benefits us all by allowing quick direct flights from Los Angeles to Loreto.

Once underwater in Loreto, you will soon discover that layers of life cover the rocky terrain. Colorful encrusting sponges, hard and soft corals and seaweed coat the boulders and steep drop-offs. The great variety of ambulatory invertebrates, most noticeably the starfish and nudibranchs, inhabit the reef in an amazing assortment of species. Illuminating the underside of large boulders reveals the diversity of the multicolored life.

What about free swimming marine fauna? Well, they come in a range of dimensions from less than one-half inch to more than 80 feet in length. Depending on the time of year, you may be escorted from the Fantasia Divers de Loreto headquarters in El Presidente Hotel to the island dive sites by an occasional finback or possibly Bryde's whale. You may be one of the fortunate ones who gets to swim with a manta ray whose wing span exceeds eight feet. In late spring and early summer, you might swim with the largest of all fishes, the whale shark.

In the late summer and early fall, visibility can extend beyond 100 feet. Throughout the year, you will be entertained by common or Pacific white sided dolphins. They may merely roll and surf in the Fantasia dive boats' wakes or, if the day is right, treat you to a display of acrobatics by leaping out from under the bow of the speeding craft and reentering the water so close to the boat the spray splashes the curious onlookers.

While no one can guarantee that mother nature will deliver such prizes, you can be assured the fish life is abundant and diverse. Upon meeting the divers, large groupers cruise on the edge of visibility and shy cabrillas retreat to the jumbled maze of boulders. Jeweled and Panamic green morays peer out from their holes. While you inspect the mottled mantle of an invertebrate, you might notice a Cortez angelfish investigating you.

Fantasia Divers runs successful operations on both sides of Mexico. Fantasia Divers de Loreto, like the Cozumel facility, is a full service watersports center. At the store, below El Presidente Hotel's restaurant, Cimarron, Fantasia Divers offers several different ways to enjoy the Sea of Cortez. Its fleet of rental sailboats includes Sunfish, Minifish, catamarans and boardsailers. In as little as one hour, the instructors can teach you how handle a windsurfer or fly a multihull. Waterskiers can carve up Nopolo Bay behind Fantasia's ski boat. Should you decide to take a day off from diving and opt to try your luck at sportfishing, Fantasia can charter you a traditional 22 foot fishing boat (called *pangas* locally) or larger 32 foot craft for either day or night outings.

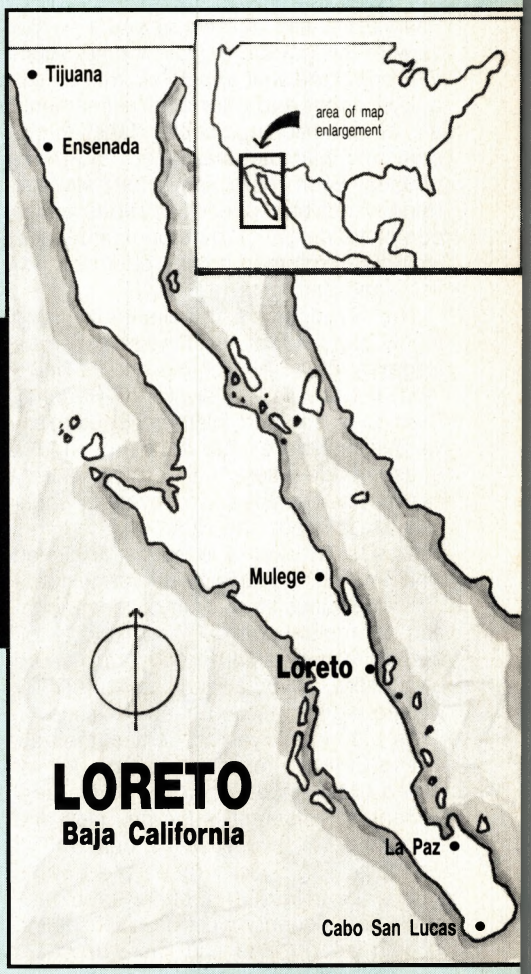
Vacationing scuba divers touring with Fantasia will also find a variety of services. When you sign in, all you need is a C-card; Fantasia can outfit you completely. It welcomes individuals as well as groups of as many as 30 divers. Instructional programs start with introductory classes and range to assistant instructor. Although several specialty courses are offered—night, deep, search and recovery, etc.—the most popular distinctive specialty is research diver in the Sea of Cortez; it's a survey of Cortez' diverse marine life above and below the surface. The staff members are outgoing, friendly and thoroughly competent. Communication is not a problem; staff members, management included, speak English well. The atmosphere may be laid back, but the crew is always ready to help with equipment, cameras or even provide an impromptu Spanish lesson.

As with the other nine El Presidente Hotels, the Loreto resort offers guests comfortable accommodations with an accent on service. The 250 rooms range in style from standard and deluxe to full-sized suites. There is a lush oasis in the large central courtyard. Palm trees rim the two pools. After a game of water volleyball in the southern portion of the main pool, players can swim to the northern end's wet bar; a true wet bar where guests sit on submerged stools. Those who prefer, snorkel along the jetties reaching out from El Presidente's dark sand beaches. Each morning, while gardeners manicure the gardens, a cowboy on horseback combs the beach. Horseback riding is available to guests.

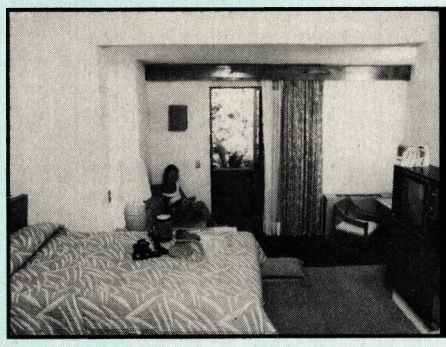
Just across from the hotel's main entrance, All American Sports' Centro Tenistico de Loreto provides complete facilities for tennis enthusiasts. The complex includes eight courts lighted for night play, one center stadium court, parabolic wall, swimming pool, showers, sauna, restaurant and pro shop. The touring pro is John McEnroe. Resident pro, Jose Antonio Palacio, is available year-round for private or group lessons from the introductory to competition levels.

El Presidente has three restaurants from which to choose. Breakfast is nor-

(Continued on Page 128)



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LAWRENCE



The rugged and harsh beauty of rock and cactus creates a striking topside world in Loreto. Underwater, there are layers of life covering the rocky terrain. Opposite page: A tranquil cove on Isla del Carmen. Insets: A close-up of a porcupinefish eye; the rays of dawn illuminate El Presidente Hotel's restaurant, Cimarron. Left: One of El Presidente's 250 rooms. Accommodations range from standard rooms to suites.

NICK'S

(Continued from Page 107)

spend the entire day here. The crowning jewel of this lovely courtyard is a spectacular swimming pool designed in a maple leaf pattern. One-third of an acre in size, the pool is the center of much of the hotel's social activities; it features a poolside swim-up bar complete with U/W seats, a nearby spa and a row of lounge chairs for sunbathing.

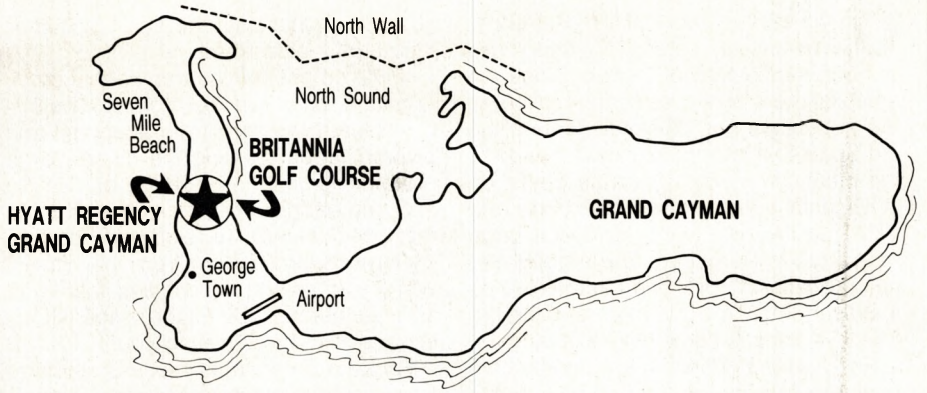
Overlooking this vast courtyard and pool are the three and four story high buildings containing the guest rooms. Each room has its own veranda with a view of the garden or golf course. All of the rooms are well appointed with an exquisite decor and offer such refinements as: air-conditioning, ceiling fans, television and international direct dial telephones. Each room has a fully stocked refrigerated bar, guest bathrobes and a complete range of bathroom amenities including perfumed soaps, shampoo, lotions and bath gels.

The Hyatt offers the distinctive and highly popular feature of the semi-private Regency Club. Two of the hotel's buildings are devoted solely to 43 Regency Club guest accommodations. Special privileges include a club concierge and a guest lounge where daily complimentary continental breakfast and evening cocktails are served. The Hyatt also features nine special executive suites furnished with English antiques and vintage furniture. The suites offer roomy accommodations complete with a parlor and a loft bedroom with a canopied, king-sized bed. There is even a Presidential Suite for visiting dignitaries and heads of state.

As with most Hyatt properties, the new Grand Cayman resort offers a variety of dining experiences including a hotel restaurant, a restaurant at the golf club and lunchtime barbecues at the beach. The Garden Loggia Cafe faces the hotel's central courtyard and offers breakfast, lunch and elegant dinners. Guest seating is both indoors and out. The cafe offers international cuisine with a variety of island specialties.

The new Hyatt offers a wide range of activities including: golfing, sailing, fishing, swimming, pool aerobics, tennis and one-half dozen more recreational pursuits. Yet, the most unique aspect of this particular Hyatt Regency is Nick's Aqua Sports, a highly organized scuba diving, snorkeling and watersports center.

First conceived by Hyatt management, Nick's Aqua Sports was developed by top professionals in the resort diving business. Heading the operation are Adrien Briggs and Atlee Bodden, two of the island's most successful entrepreneurs. Adrien has been associated with diving since childhood and is best known for his success with the Sunset House, Cayman's longest established diving resort. Operations Manager for Nick's is Dick Batchelder, well known for his work with the Riding Rock Inn at San Salvador Island in the Bahamas.



The creation of Nick's Aqua Sports drew together some of the best minds and talents in the business. From this evolved a design for the dive resort service of the future. A new kind of dive boat was designed and two of these unique vessels have already been built and put into service. The programs offered at Nick's are highly progressive.

Nick's Aqua Sports is headquartered at the Britannia beach, directly across the street from the hotel. The facility is easily identified by a wondrous array of colorful windsurfers, Sunfish sailboats, Hobie Cats and many other watersports items. The beach watersports building is open seven days a week from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm and guest services include free towels, beach showers and restrooms. There is a service counter for equipment rentals and a sales counter for incidental beach items and cold drinks. An equipment storage area allows guests to leave their dive gear at the facility.

The pride of Nick's is two unique dive boats. These all aluminum high speed vessels are engineering marvels of the 20th century. The *Reef Spirit* and *Coral Spirit* are identical 46 foot long by 16 foot wide monohulls. Each is powered by twin turbo charged Perkins diesels, which can propel these craft to dive sites at cruising speeds of up to 20 knots.

Each of the boats offers a spacious area for dive gear storage and suiting up. Comfortable guest seating has been designed with convenient tank storage adjacent to each passenger. There are onboard freshwater showers, a private changing room for slipping into your swimsuit and even a restroom. Two large, freshwater dip tanks allow divers to rinse off their camera equipment, dive computers and other instruments. Each craft is equipped with a 12 foot long photo table where guests can store their cameras and change film. Eighty percent of the deck area is shaded for personal comfort and sun protection.

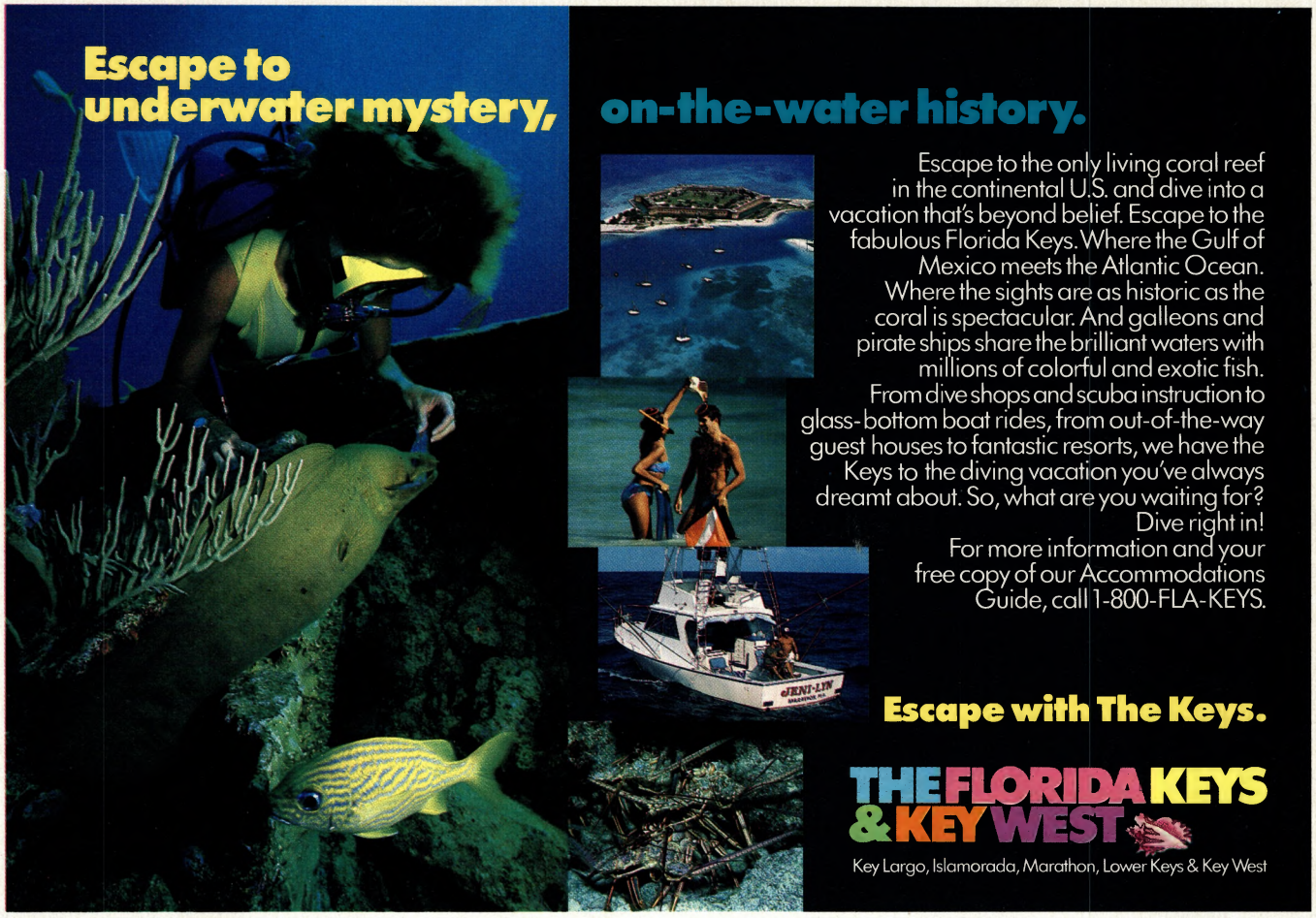
(Continued on Page 114)

Right: Jet aircraft from three U.S. cities lined up at Grand Cayman Airport. Cayman Airways, Eastern and Northwest operate daily nonstop service to the island. Below: Nick's dive boats pulled up on Britannia Beach for morning dive trips. The boats operate four and sometimes five times daily, allowing Hyatt guests to select the most convenient departure.





Britannia is 80 acres of paradise on the west side of Grand Cayman and it stretches from the shores of Seven Mile Beach to the inland waterways of North Sound.

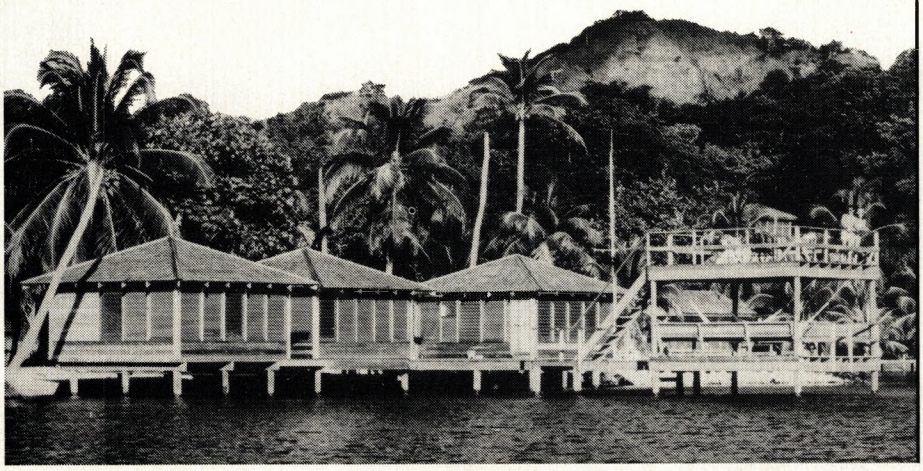


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The Saddled Butterflyfish

(Chaetodon ephippium)

The saddled butterflyfish of the Indo-Pacific is a striking, easily recognizable species because of the large black saddle in its upper dorsal area. This characteristic is no doubt the source of its scientific name, *ephippium*, which comes from the Greek meaning "mounted as on a horse." ☐ The fish has a relatively wide range—throughout the Indo-Pacific, off Australia, rarely in Hawaii. In the wild, it lives in shallow water—the tidepools of the Great Barrier Reef; the inlets of southern Honshu; in depths less than three feet off Hawaii—yet specimens have been collected from deep water traps in Hawaii. ☐ There is a broad white border on the black saddle of the fish and orange markings on the rear of the saddle, at the base of the tail and on the chin and snout. On the pale greenish-yellow body, there is a series of blue-purple stripes that run the length of the belly. As the fish reaches its maximum length of about 12 inches, the dorsal filament grows until it reaches the length of the tail. The relative age of an individual saddled butterflyfish can be determined by the length of this dorsal appendage. ☐ The butterflyfishes belong to the family Chaetodontidae, which is worldwide in distribution and represented by 11 genera with 160 species. The greatest diversity of this family is in the Indo-Pacific. ☐ As is typical of all members of the family, the saddled butterflyfish has a dark stripe through the eye and a black blotch near the tail. In the saddled butterfly, the eye stripe often pales with age. It is speculated that these markings serve as a camouflage and that predators calculating the movements of the butterflyfish by the position of its eye (the real eye concealed by the stripe) often lunge for the wrong end of the fish and come up empty-mouthed. ☐ Butterflyfishes have other means of defense besides camouflage. They can swim backward, which helps in moments of danger and they can wedge themselves into inaccessible, narrow cracks in the reef. Their high bodies and stout dorsal and anal spines deny them as prey to all but the largest predators. ☐ Butterflyfishes have behavioral characteristics similar to their terrestrial namesakes, flitting about the reefs like butterflies, often in pairs. They pick at corals to eat the coral animals and also feed on the tentacles of polychaete worms and zoantharians. The elongated snouts of some butterflyfishes are especially well adapted for getting into the nooks and crannies of coral reefs. *Chaetodont* means bristle tooth, which describes the minute, brush-like teeth that are well adapted for straining out the tiny animals they feed on. The juveniles of butterflyfishes are prized by aquarists the world over. In an aquarium, the saddled butterflyfish does well when it feeds on brine shrimp and freeze-dried *Tubifex* worms.

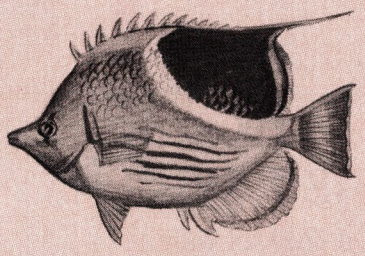


Photo By Carl Roessler-Text By Hillary Hauser

Roessler took the photo in 40 feet of water on Great Astrolabe Reef, Fiji. He used a Nikon F and 55mm macro lens in a Giddings/Felgen housing, two Bauer E252 strobes. Kodachrome 64 at f/11, two feet from subject.

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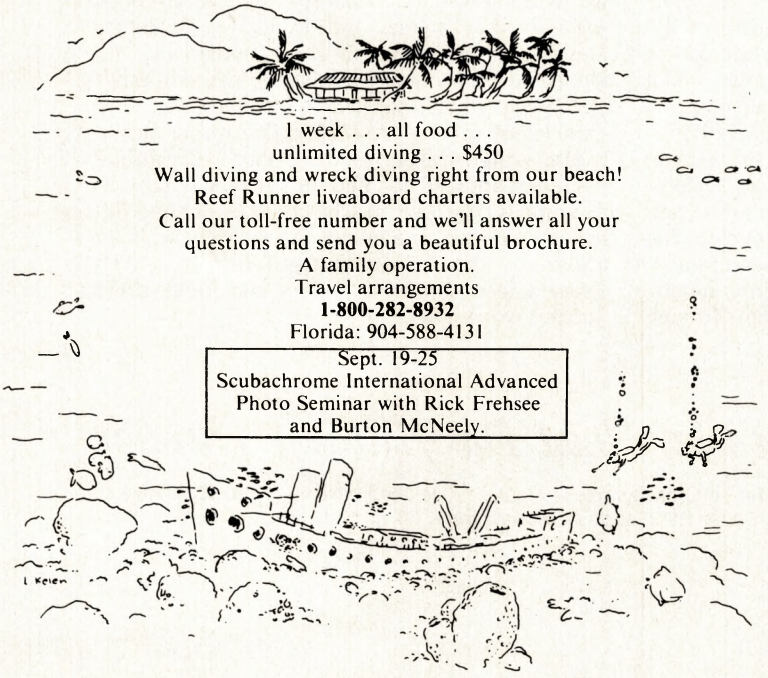
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HYATT

(Continued from Page 110)

Both dive boats are equipped with an exceptionally large, 16 foot wide stern platform and twin boarding ladders. The ladders are set at a slight angle for easy walk-up and offer handgrips for safety.

Service aboard Nick's dive boats reflects the same attentive, friendly manner that one enjoys at the hotel. Guests are provided with free fresh towels on board daily. Ice coolers are placed on board each morning and divers can purchase sodas at the Watersports Center. After each dive, guests are offered a platter of complimentary fruit including melon slices, apples or grapes. Divers seldom lift a scuba tank, as the divemasters and boat crew attend to all personal needs. Divers who go aboard Nick's boats risk being spoiled for life.

One of the most impressive aspects of Nick's operation is the convenient scheduling of dive trips. These boats operate four and sometimes five times daily, allowing Hyatt guests to select the departure most convenient for them. The day usually starts with a morning two-tank trip that departs at 9:15. This is designed for experienced divers who wish to make a wall dive followed by a reef dive. There is an 11:00 am one-tank shallow coral dive trip for late risers and for people participating in open water training. Snorkelers can also go along on this trip. In the afternoon, there are one-tank dives scheduled at 2:00 and 4:00. Night dives are scheduled for Thursdays. Additional night dives can be arranged when eight or more divers make a request.

Another attractive feature of Nick's is the high-tech equipment used for diving. The staff has selected the most advanced state-of-the-art equipment in a variety of fashionable colors. Rental gear includes BC jackets and regulators equipped with extra second stages and instrument consoles. Nick's maintains a large inventory of 80 cubic foot aluminum tanks, which are pumped to 3,000 psi. There are also shorter, 63 cubic foot aluminum tanks for smaller divers.

In addition to the basic diving hardware, Nick's offers a fine selection of shorty wetsuits and dive lights for night excursions. Guests are provided with net bags for carrying their gear.

At Nick's, the emphasis is on customer service. A staff of 18 watersports experts provides a variety of services. You never lift a tank and never lug your dive gear.

More importantly, Nick's doesn't just rent you dive equipment and wish you luck. It conducts daily training classes and programs for the uninitiated. A special Discover Scuba program is conducted at the Hyatt pool daily. This is a fine

opportunity for nondivers to be introduced to the thrill of breathing U/W.

Also conducted daily is a resort course known as Introduction to Scuba. This training program includes classroom, pool work and a single tank dive on a shallow protected coral reef. There are also refresher scuba courses and personal coaching in such advanced areas as repetitive dive calculations, U/W photography and the use of dive computers.

Nick's Aqua Sports has the same type of training programs for other watersports as well. For example, it operates a certified Mistral Windsurfing School and offers personalized classes in the sailing of both Hobie Cats and Sunfish.

One of the highpoints of the week's stay at the Hyatt is a trip aboard Nick's super sleek 65 foot catamaran, *Spirit of Ppalu*. This high speed, high-tech sailing vessel is a French design, constructed in the Virgin Islands. It is an extremely spacious craft, featuring glass bottom viewing ports and racing sails.

Nick's operates two types of trips aboard the *Ppalu*. One is a picnic cruise departing at 1:00 pm and featuring swimming, sailing and snorkeling—plus a buffet lunch catered by the Hyatt Hotel. The other is a sunset cruise that departs at 6:00 pm. Guests are served complimentary *Ppalu* Punch and a delightful dinner.

As for the diving, the Caymans can't be beat. The drop-offs are absolutely breathtaking, underwater visibility can reach 150 feet and the reefs are filled with a remarkable collection of friendly and fascinating marine life. Cayman is now regarded as the top diving destination in the entire Caribbean.

Nick's operates daily trips to Grand Cayman's best wall dive sites seven days a week. It visits such well known spots as Sentinel Rock, Orange Canyon, Big Tunnel, Round Rock, Trinity Caves, Sand Chute, Eagle's Nest, Eagle Ray Rock and a new one called King Neptune's Wall.

Coral reef dives are conducted at such well known locations as Spanish Anchor, Angelfish Reef, Aquarium, Peter's Reef, Wildlife Reef, Royal Palms Ledge and Japanese Gardens. The *Oro Verde* and *Balboa* are visited regularly.

Training dives and snorkeling trips are conducted at such locations as Bikini Reef, Eden Rock, Paradise Reef, Devil's Grotto and Mariner's Cove.

Getting to Grand Cayman is easier than ever. Three airlines now operate daily nonstop jet service from the United States to the island. Cayman Airways operates flights from both Miami and Houston. Eastern offers regular service from Miami. Northwest now has flights from both Memphis and Miami. The flight from Miami to Grand Cayman is only one hour and 15 minutes.

It would appear that Hyatt has achieved the ideal combination for a Caribbean vacation: A world-class hotel with a first class dive operation in a super class dive destination.

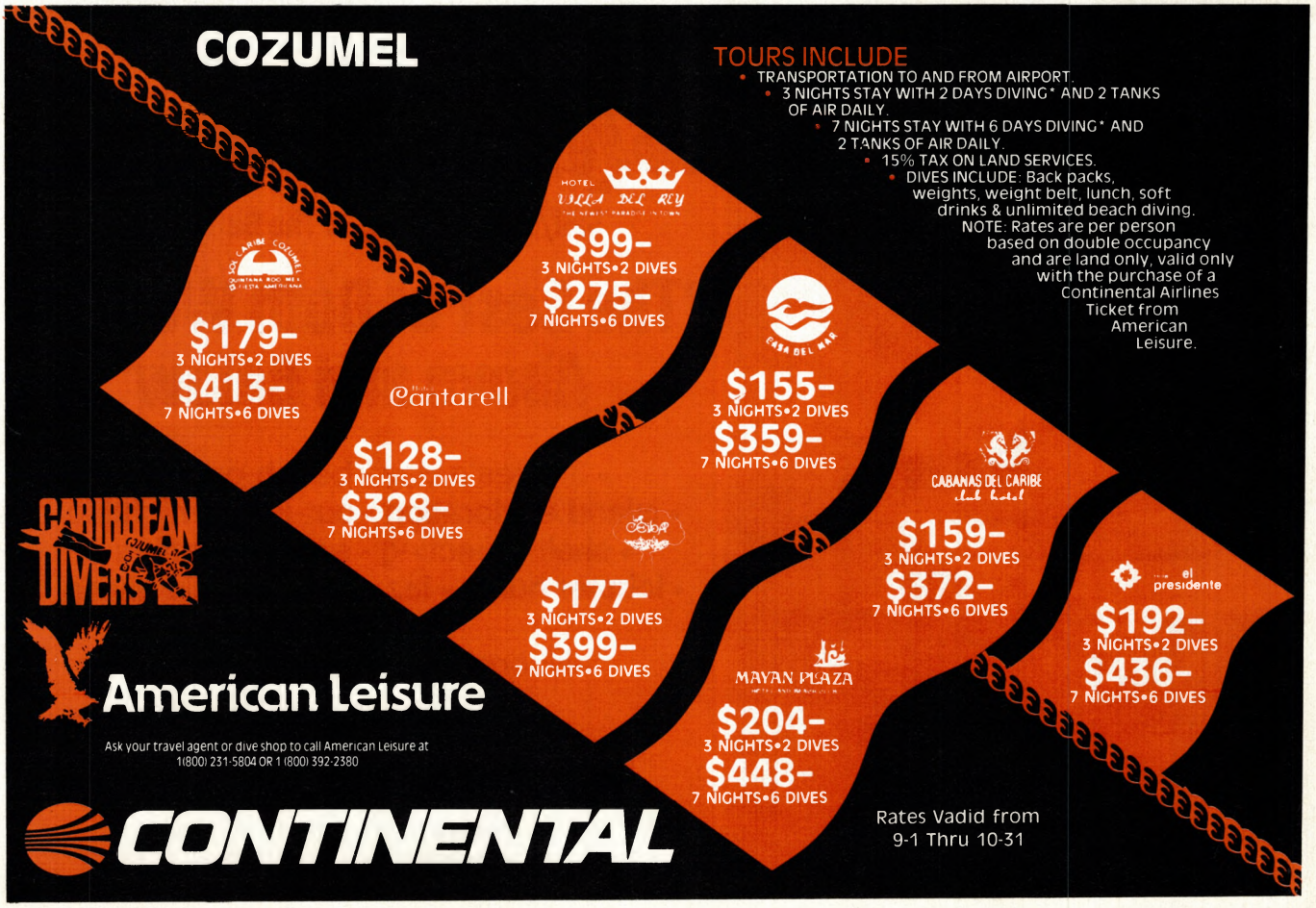
For more information and reservations, you can call Hyatt's worldwide 24 hour toll free number (800) 228-9000. If you are seeking specific information or specialized services at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, you can call (809) 949-1234. For specific information about Nick's Aqua Sports in Grand Cayman, you can call (800) 255-NICK or (809) 949-8745.

LAHAINA DIVERS

Lahaina Divers, on the Hawaiian island of Maui, is now offering three tank boat dives. The three tank option allows divers to experience the most diving possible for their travel dollars.

The Lahaina Divers package includes interisland diving from the 43 foot *Reliant* or its 31 foot *Nomad*—both custom-built vessels. Divers can choose from condominium accommodations or rooms at the Maui islander Hotel. Package rates are available and include car rentals.

Lahaina Divers is a PADI five star training facility. Tanks and weightbelts are included in all dive packages and rentals feature jackets equipped with octopus/inflators and regulators. For information call (800) 367-8047, ext. 102.



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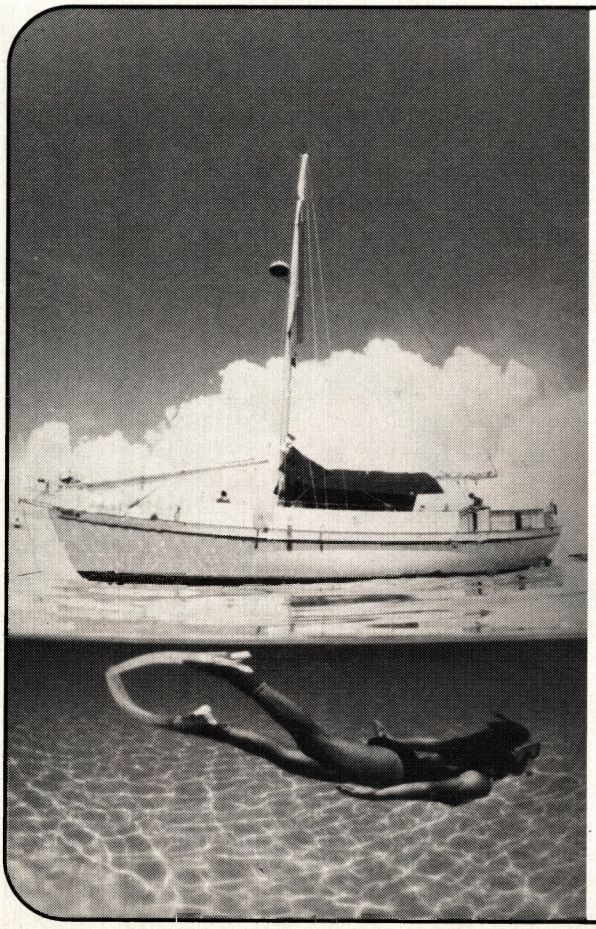


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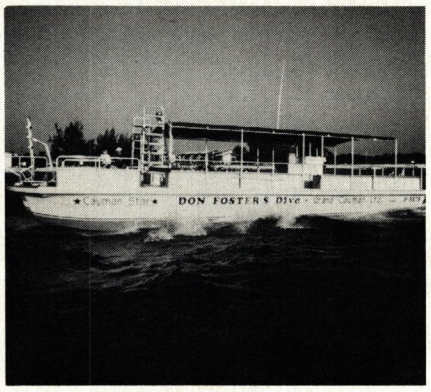
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CAYMAN STAR

An exclusive custom dive boat is the latest addition to the Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd. fleet. The luxurious 54 foot *Cayman Star* brings the number of boats to six. It is essentially a larger, more refined version of the original, 52 foot boats, *Cayman Sun* and *Cayman Sea*, added last year. Manager of dive operations, Allen Bloomrosen, collaborated with Don Foster on the design, adding features of his own creation, and actually oversaw the *Cayman Star*'s construction by Astoria Boatworks in St. Louis, MO.

The *Cayman Star* has a number of features to ensure maximum guest comfort



during trips. The fast and stable craft has a unique hull structure—a modified monohull, for increased strength—and is powered by twin Perkins turbo-charged 240 hp diesels. There are fresh and seawater showers; a carpeted changing room below decks; custom designed boarding ladders; oversized stern swim platform for easy entry and exit; stereo, VHF radio and depth sounder; and storage bins that double as seating to prevent cluttered decks. The spacious boat carries a maximum of 20 divers and, like its predecessors, the *Cayman Star* has a large canopy shading much of the deck.

The Foster's fleet also includes Don's original boat, the 26 foot Bristol Blue Water flattop, *Adventure Diver*, which carries 10 divers; the 36 foot flattop *Undersea Diver*, which carries 18 divers; and the *Wavemaker*, a 38 foot Chris Craft yacht used for private charters and VIP trips.

Foster's growth has not changed the operation's high standards or emphasis on personalized service. Groups wishing to organize small private charters are easily accommodated with advance notice, according to Allen Bloomrosen. Scheduled daily morning two tank and afternoon one tank dives never exceed the comfortable stated limit of divers per boat to avoid passenger inconvenience.

For information contact Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd. or Scuba Tours, Inc., (800) 526-1394 or (809) 949-7025. In New Jersey call (201) 256-9115.





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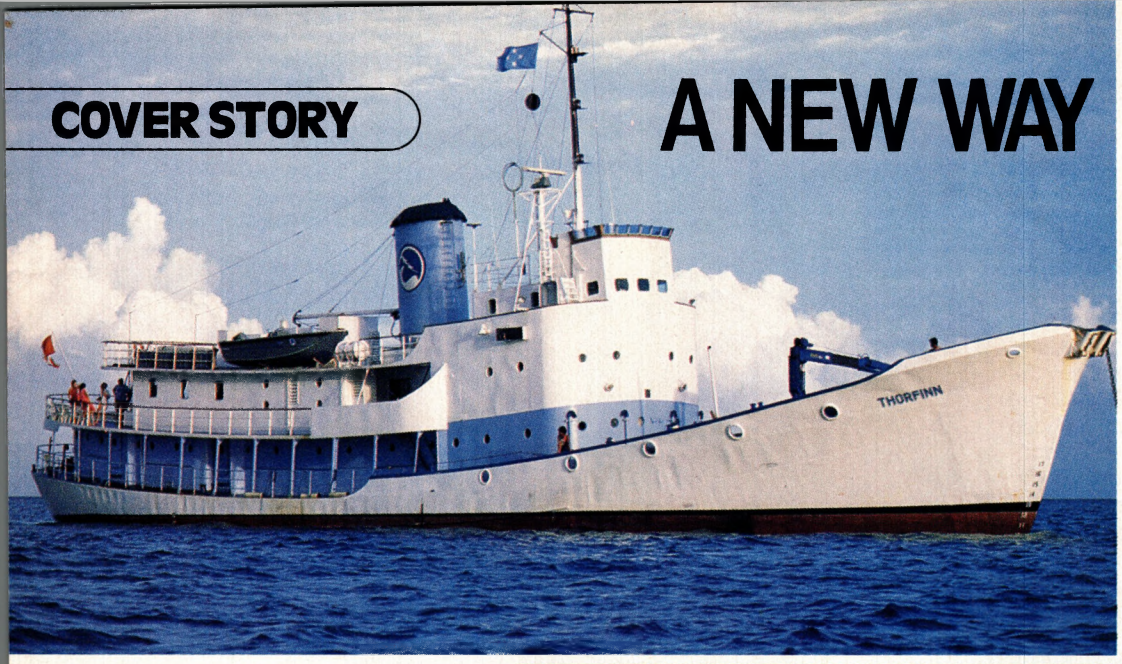
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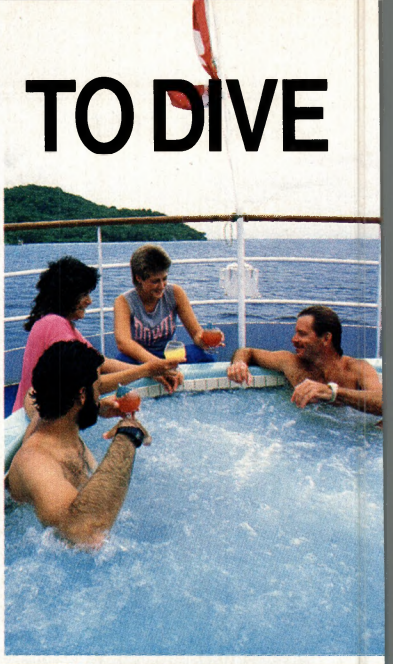
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COVER STORY

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SS THORFINN

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY





What could possibly be better than diving the legendary shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon? How about diving Truk from a spacious live-aboard dive boat? When it's moored in a flat calm lagoon, a ghost fleet of World War II Japanese shipwrecks lies at your doorstep and you can dive them at your convenience. Is it a dream or reality? Read on and find out what you have been missing.

RARE UNDERSEA PHENOMENON

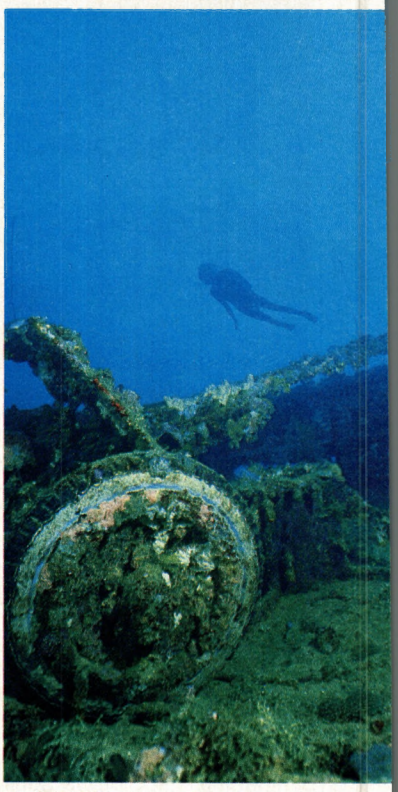
But first, a few words about the destination. Truk Lagoon is regarded as one of the rarest undersea phenomena a diver could hope to experience.

In the center of the Western Pacific, Truk Lagoon is like a giant mill pond in the middle of the open ocean. A circular coral barrier reef encloses this lagoon and protects it from the open sea. The lagoon is 38 miles in diameter, with tropical islands and reaches a depth of 260 feet in some parts.

Because of its location (near Papua New Guinea) the waters of Truk Lagoon are rich with Indo-Pacific varieties of fish, corals and exotic marine life. Water temperatures range from 82 to 85°F and visibility can exceed 150 feet. The lagoon and undersea life are as beautiful as any South Seas reef.

What makes Truk Lagoon so unique is the cataclysmic event that occurred 43 years ago. During WW II Truk Lagoon was the headquarters of the Japanese Imperial Navy—Japan's counterpart to Pearl Harbor. In 1944, Truk was attacked by an Allied Task Force that bombed and torpedoed many of the ships during a two day period.

As a result, more than 60 ships lie on the bottom of this tropical lagoon. Protected by Trukese law, this ghost fleet of World War II has been preserved for eternity and transformed into one of the most magnificent undersea museums in the world. The ships are now decorated with a spectacular array of soft and hard corals, seafans and sponges. Schools of baitfish swirl about the decks as jacks and tuna feed upon the teeming masses of marine life. No place on earth is quite like Truk Lagoon.

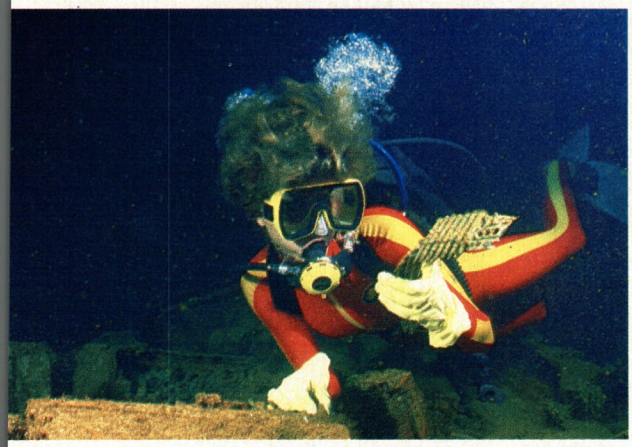




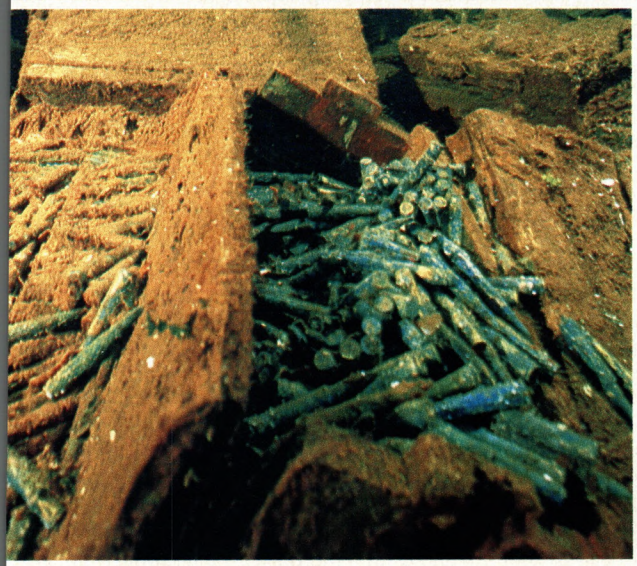
TRUK LAGOON







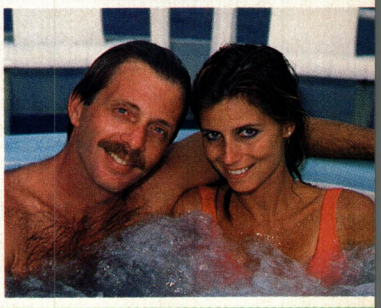


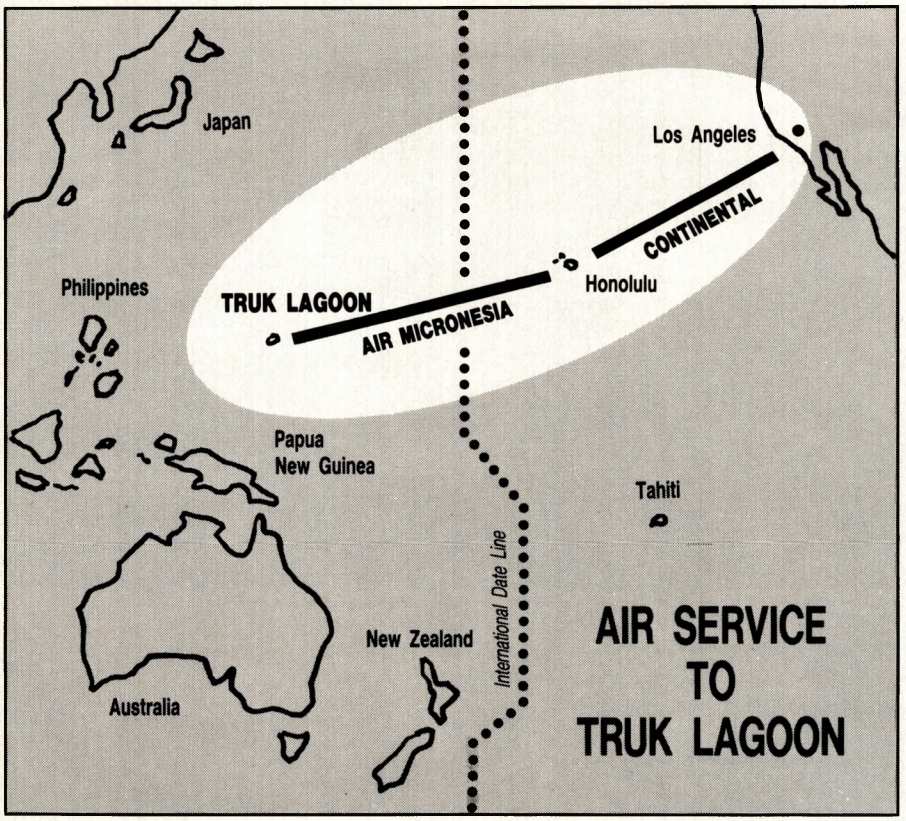




SKIN DIVER joins the Stephen Frink Photo Tour for a week aboard the SS *Thorfinn* while it cruises the calm waters of Truk Lagoon and visits more than one dozen WW II Japanese shipwreck sites. Guests enjoy the spacious comfort of this 170 foot live-aboard dive boat, complete with hot tub, living room and three dining rooms. Opposite page, mid-left: Captain Lance Higgs (right) and one of the divemasters. Far right: Stephen Frink and Barbara Doernbach. Right: divers fly from Honolulu to Truk on Air Micronesia's 727 jets.







***Thorfinn* guests travel from the U.S. West Coast via Continental Airlines jets to Honolulu. From there they fly Air Micronesia to Truk. The *Thorfinn* offers 6 and 8 day cruises to the fabulous wrecks of Truck Lagoon, plus 12 day cruises between Truk and Pohnpei.**

SS THORFINN

Now, one more ship has been added to the Truk Lagoon fleet, but this one is different. Regarded as the largest live-aboard dive boat in the Pacific, the SS *Thorfinn* measures an awesome 170 feet long. She is a converted whaling ship that has been transformed into a live-aboard vessel for scuba diving and fishing.

Built in Norway in 1952, the *Thorfinn* exhibits the classic ice breaker type bow and low aft gunwales of a commercial fishing vessel. Constructed of heavy duty steel and powered by a massive steam engine, the 1,100 ton ship is capable of safely sailing in the stormiest of seas. During her early service, the *Thorfinn* plied the waters of the North Sea and iceberg water of the Antarctic.

At 170 feet, the *Thorfinn* is the largest live-aboard dive boat in operation today. She has a 30 foot beam and a draft of 18 feet. She can reach a maximum speed of 17 knots and cruises comfortably at 13 knots. Four decks high, this vessel offers incredibly spacious accommodations and facilities.

The *Thorfinn* was redesigned to accommodate 26 guests at a cost of $2 million. There are a total of 13 double staterooms spread out among three separate decks. All are fully air-conditioned and contain private sinks, mirrors, closets and drawers. Four showers and six toilets (heads) are conveniently located just a few steps from the staterooms. A washer and dryer provide laundry service.

An additional $30,000 worth of air-conditioning has been installed in the saloon and upper cabins on the lounge deck. The general air-conditioning system has also been beefed up to handle the tropical weather of Micronesia. The cabin temperature can be brought down to 72 degrees if desired.

The *Thorfinn* features a very roomy saloon (living room) complete with hanging plants, a bar, television and VCR system. The videotape library contains a selection of at least 50 movies. Three refrigerated drinking fountains have been installed in the corridors of the various decks.

Just outside the saloon doors there is a large, eight foot diameter hot tub, complete with air jets. Built flush to the deck, the hot tub will accommodate up to ten people comfortably. It is filled with saltwater and heated to 98°F. Surrounding the tub are a dozen deck chairs.

SHIPBOARD DINING

After diving, a diver's second most important priority is generally food, and this is where the *Thorfinn* excels. The ship is equipped with a large galley and a total of four dining tables. Guests are seated in small groups of 5 to 10 people. Meals are individually served by the crew.

Three hot meals are served daily and each has a homemade quality to it. The galley crew bakes its own bread, cakes and cookies. The *Thorfinn* also has its own ice cream maker.

The cuisine is wholesome American and continental with generous servings of chicken, roast beef, veal, lamb, duck, pot roast and lobster. Fish is served on occasion and is generally a delicious British Columbia salmon.

Desserts are equally delicious and widely varied. They include such tantalizing items as: apple strudel, fresh made vanilla ice cream, chocolate eclairs, pineapple slices with raspberry sauce or chocolate cake with banana cream filling.

Each morning a large coffee urn is ready for self serve at 6:30 am. This is great for early birds. Breakfast starts at 7:30 am. A pitcher of fruit juice is set out on each table and guests give the chef their order. Each meal is cooked to order with a selection of eggs any style, pancakes or French toast. There is also a choice of sausage or bacon.

At mid-morning freshly baked chocolate chip cookies are available for divers returning from their first dives. The same is true in mid-afternoon. Hot coffee, tea or lemonade are available all day long.

Lunch is served at 12:30 or 1:00 pm, depending upon when the boats return from the second dive. Lunch can consist of such delights as: potato soup and quiche, stuffed duck, chili and fresh baked bread, pot roast and gravy. Salads are also served.

Hors d'oeuvres are served in the saloon each evening at 6:30 pm. These little savories include chicken paté, various cheeses, cold meats and so on.

Dinner is served at 7:30 pm and includes white wine. The quality of food is better than that of most restaurants and served piping hot. Dishes include prime rib, lamb rack, lobster tail, veal cutlet, chicken breasts and baked salmon.

DIVING FACILITIES

Cradled on the decks of the *Thorfinn* are three 24 foot dive boat tenders. Each craft can carry eight divers plus a boat operator and a dive guide. They are powered by twin Suzuki outboards. The vessel also carries four, 14 foot aluminum runabouts that are used for fishing, exploration and pickup dive tenders.

Dual air fill stations have been installed on the main deck—one at the starboard rail and one at the port. This allows simultaneous filling of tanks on both sides of the vessel and eliminates congestion.

"Fin bins" have been mounted along the ship's rails. These plastic buckets are large enough to hold a diver's personal fins, mask, BC, regulator and accessories. Each pair of buckets is numbered to match your stateroom number.

DIVING SCHEDULE

I recently went aboard the *Thorfinn* for an eight day Truk Lagoon cruise. This

consisted of moving the great ship among three anchorages in the lagoon and diving on some 14 to 16 wrecks.

Each of the three anchorages (Moen, Dublon, Uman) offered an opportunity to visit a separate set of wrecks:

Moen Anchorage

Shinkoku Maru
Yamagiri Maru
Hoyo Maru
Heian Maru
Suzuki

Uman Anchorage

Hino Maru 2
Sankisan Maru
Amagisan Maru
No Name Wreck
Gosei Maru
Rio de Janeiro Maru

Dublon Anchorage

Nippo Maru
Seiko Maru
Fujikawa Maru
Betty Bomber
Zero Wreck

Running time (by dive tender) from the *Thorfinn* to various wrecks ranges from 10 to 20 minutes. The boats are easy to board as the main deck is level with the floating craft.

During the cruise there are a total of seven days of diving. Usually four excursions are scheduled daily, plus a night dive every night. If you make every dive scheduled, you can total 35 dives for the week—more than double the amount of diving that can be done from a shore based hotel.

The dive schedule begins at 8:00 am. There are usually two dives each morning and two in the afternoon. There are generally two hours surface time between each dive and most guests use a decompression computer to monitor their repetitive dive schedule. The day's diving is usually over by 5:30 pm. Night dives are scheduled after dinner.

Each morning the divemaster posts a schedule of which wrecks will be dived and at what times. Popular wrecks such as the *Fujikawa*, *Sankisan* and *Shinkoku* are often rescheduled for a second or third dive. The ship's library carries books on the various wrecks so guests can brief themselves prior to the dive.

The Trukese dive guides, Possee and Jersey, are experts at pinpointing the unmarked wrecks. They can anchor the boat on just about any portion of the ship (bow, mid-section or stern) even though the wreck may lie 100 feet below. Their pinpoint accuracy is the result of years of experience taking location bearings from nearby islands.

DIVE SITES

One of the unique aspects of Truk Lagoon, as compared to other maritime graveyards, is that each shipwreck has its own personality. Many of the sunken vessels were part of the Japanese Merchant Marine Service—freighters and tankers transporting military supplies and ammunition. This navy of war time conscripts included ships of many designs and vintages. They carried a fascinating variety of cargoes and today are host to some amazing species of marine life.

The following is a sketch of the most popular wrecks visited by the *Thorfinn*:

Shinkoku Maru: This 500 foot long Japanese tanker is considered one of the three most beautiful shipwrecks in the lagoon. The ship sits upright on the bottom with the wheelhouse and forward decks brimming with beautiful soft corals of many colors.

Yamagiri Maru: This 450 foot long cargo vessel lies on its starboard side with seafans and soft corals covering the bridge and the port railing. She was an ammunition ship for Japan's super battleship *Muhsashi*. Her forward hold is still loaded with 18 inch diameter warheads that weigh 3,700 pounds each. These were the largest naval shells produced for a battleship of any nation.

Heian Maru: This 510 foot submarine tender lies on its port side with the name clearly marked in giant bronze letters on

TRUK LAGOON WRECK DIVES

Wreck Name	Length	Type of Wreck	Depths	Attractions
Amagisan Maru	450 ft.	Large, 6 hold freighter	100 to 180′	Bow gun at 100 ft. Flag officer's passenger car in hold #2.
Betty Bomber	65 ft.	Mitsubishi G4M bomber	50′	Fuselage, cockpit and wings.
Fujikawa Maru	435 ft.	Large 6 hold aircraft ferry	30 to 110′	Soft corals, lionfish, Zero planes, ammo, props, saki bottles.
Gosei Maru	270 ft.	Small 3 hold freighter	8 to 100′	Stern prop, cargo of torpedoes.
Heian Maru	510 ft.	Passenger liner/ sub tender	45 to 110′	Name welded on bow, sub periscopes.
Hino Maru 2	200 ft.	Small 2 hold freighter	3 to 70′	Bow gun close to surface.
Hoyo Maru	470 ft.	Large tanker upside down	10 to 110′	Engine room, crack in hull.
Nippo Maru	352 ft.	Medium size 5 hold freighter	80 to 140′	Small tank & 3 field guns lashed to deck.
No Name	380 ft.	Unidentified freighter	50 to 110	Twin 4 blade props, coral growth on stern.
Rio de Janiero Maru	450 ft.	Passenger liner converted to sub tender	40 to 150′	Giant 4 blade props, coral on stern, railings, deck guns.
San Francisco Maru	385 ft.	Medium size 5 hold freighter	120 to 170′	3 tanks & 1 truck on decks, hold #1 filled with mines.
Sankisan Maru	367 ft.	Medium size freighter, stern blown apart	10 to 80′	Soft corals, lionfish, trucks on deck, ammo in hold #1.
Seiko Maru	395 ft.	Medium size 5 hold freighter	95 to 135′	Bow gun, lavender nudibranchs.
Shinkoku Maru	500 ft.	Large tanker upright on sea floor	40 to 110′	Soft corals on bridge & bow. Engine telegraph, bow gun, helm.
Suzuki	275 ft.	Destroyer reclassified as Patrol Boat 34	10 to 50′	False bow, high speed props, engine room.
Yamagiri Maru	436 ft.	Large 6 hold freighter	50 to 110′	Giant 18 inch battleship ammo, soft corals.
Zero	29 ft.	Mitsubishi A6M3 Zero fighter in shallows	6 to 10′	Cockpit, engine, fuselage.



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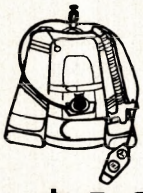
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the bow. Her most impressive feature is a large deck gun mounted on her stern.

Suzuki: This was a retired Japanese destroyer that had been reconditioned as a patrol boat. She had lost her bow and had a false bow welded in its place. She had twin high speed propellers and depth charge racks on the stern.

Fujikawa Maru: This 435 foot aircraft ferry is regarded as another of the three most beautiful shipwrecks in Truk Lagoon. She sits upright on the seafloor with her upper decks covered with soft corals and marine life of all types. A family of lionfish inhabit the stern area of the ship and there are a number of carpet anemones on her deck, complete with small families of clownfish. Her cargo holds contain Zero fighter fuselages, wings, propeller blades and machine guns. The forward hold also contains boxes of machine gun bullets.

Hino Maru 2: This small, 200 foot cargo vessel is perhaps one of the most photographed wrecks in Truk Lagoon. She lies in shallow water almost up against an island. A small, three inch deck gun is mounted on her bow and comes within five feet of the surface.

Sankisan Maru: Nearby are the partial remains of a 367 foot ammunition ship. She is the third most beautiful wreck in the lagoon, as her forward mast is completely draped in soft corals, hard corals and colorful marine life. The ship is also home to a small family of lionfish. The remains of several trucks are still lashed to the deck of this vessel and the forward hold contains cases of bullets and heavier ammunition.

Amagisan Maru: This 450 foot cargo vessel lies in deeper water, rolled over on her port side. Her most distinctive feature is a large bow gun that can be photographed underneath. Her cargo holds contain drums of aviation fuel and an automobile that may have belonged to a high ranking officer.

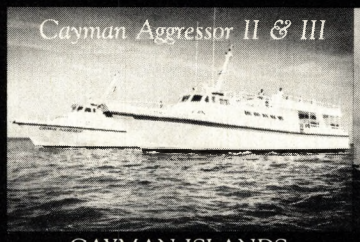
No Name Maru: This unidentified shipwreck was discovered only recently and is near the wrecks of the *Sankisan* and *Hino*. Her most prominent feature is a large stern propeller and a multitude of fish life.

Rio de Janeiro Maru: This 450 foot converted luxury liner was a submarine tender. She lies on her starboard side with deck guns still in place. The stern is the most interesting area as it features two giant, four bladed propellers and a colorful array of sponges, soft corals and baitfish. There is usually a school of jacks cruising off the deep end of the stern.

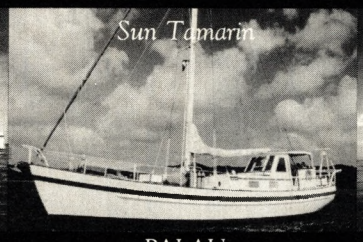
Gosei Maru: Sometimes called the stern high wreck, this 275 foot vessel carried a cargo of torpedoes, periscopes and ammunition. She lies on a steep slope up against an island with the stern

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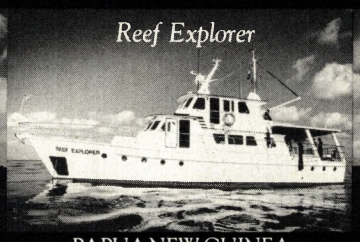
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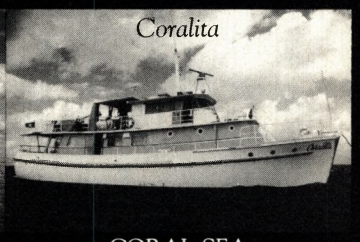
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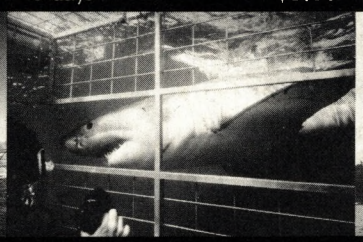
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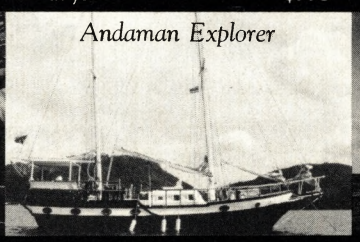
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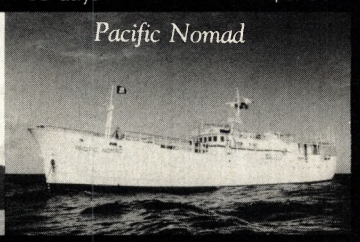
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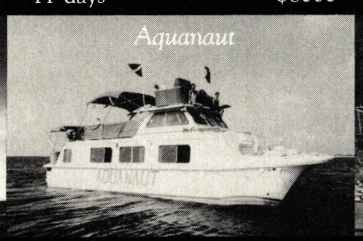
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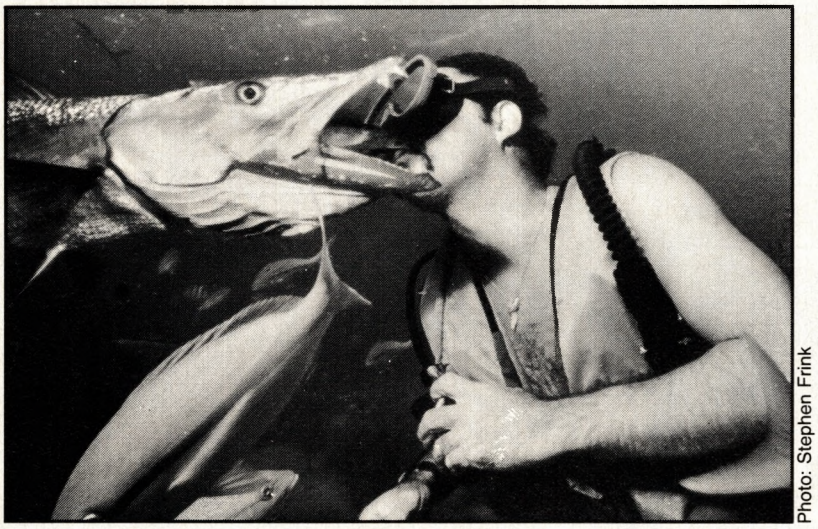


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THORFINN

coming to within 50 feet of the surface. Her single propeller and large rudder can make a striking silhouette photo.

Nippo Maru: This 350 foot cargo ship is a deep but fascinating wreck. A tank and three field cannons are still lashed to her deck. The ship is loaded with artifacts, including naval binoculars, Japanese dishware and sake cups.

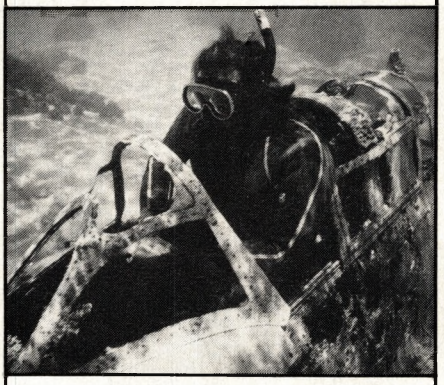
Betty Bomber: The wreckage of a twin engine Japanese Betty bomber lies on a sand bottom in 50 feet of water. She crashed on take-off while being attacked by a U.S. Marine fighter plane.

Zero Wreck: Nearby is the wreck of an A6-M3 Mitsubishi Zero fighter. The aircraft is still intact but upside down in 50 feet of water.

GETTING THERE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information and reservations, contact either See & Sea Travel Service or Seaward Holdings, Ltd., owners and operators of the *Thorfinn*.

The following is a listing of the company addresses and phone numbers:

See & Sea Travel Service
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San Francisco, CA 94133
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In California (415) 434-3400

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This is but a small sampling of the 100 ships, subs and planes that lie on the bottom of Truk Lagoon. Many other wrecks are dived on request and new ones are being found every year. Truk Lagoon still contains many unlocated virgin wrecks.

1988 DIVE SCHEDULE

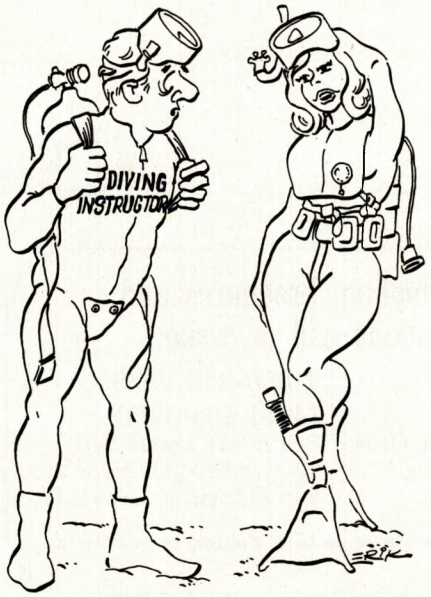
The *Thorfinn*'s 1988 schedule will be different and much improved over prior years. She will be operating in Truk year-round. The sailing schedule will incorporate three different length trips: 6, 8 and 12 day cruises. The 6 and 8 day cruises will be devoted to diving the wrecks of Truk Lagoon. The 12 day cruise consists of a trip between Truk and Pohnpei (also known as Ponape) with dives on remote coral atolls as well as shipwreck dives.

Thorfinn diving cruises range in price from $1,200 for a 6 day cruise to $1,680 for an 8 day cruise and $2,450 for a 12 day cruise. Starting December 4, the *Thorfinn* will make 35 departures out of Truk and one out of Pohnpei.

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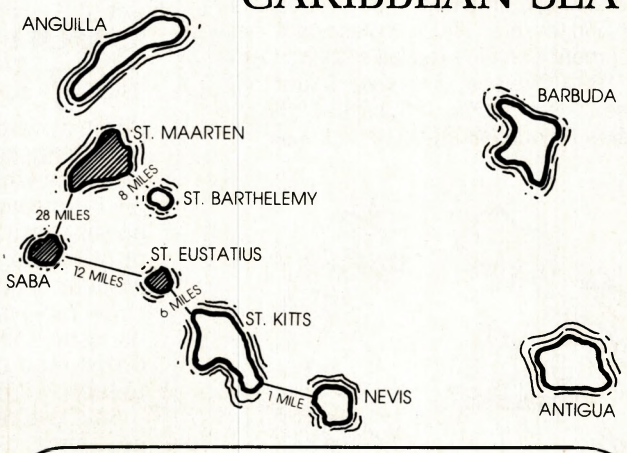
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NAUI PEOPLE

Mike White and Ronnie Lynn Damico are the new branch managers for NAUI regions on the West Coast. White has replaced John Heine as manager of the Mid-Pacific Branch. Damico succeeded Jim Brown as Pacific/South Pacific Branch Manager when Brown was appointed NAUI training manager.

White is a dive shop manager in Davis, California. He was the diving safety officer at USC's Catalina Marine Science Center, a position once held by Damico. A NAUI instructor since 1981, White taught scuba diving at the University of California, Davis.

Damico is the diving safety officer at California State University, Long Beach



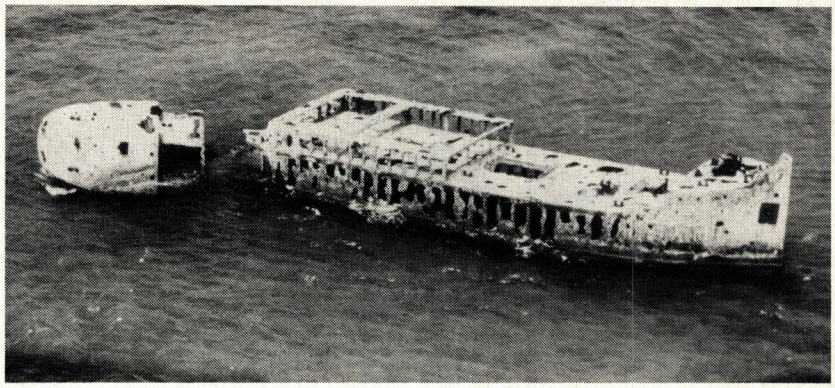
Nancy Guarascio

and for the Southern California Ocean Studies Consortium. She has been a NAUI instructor since 1979. She is director of the 1987 International Conference on Underwater Education.

Both managers will coordinate NAUI courses and activities in wide areas. White's branch extends north of California's San Luis Obispo County and into Nevada and Utah. Damico's region includes the southern and eastern counties of Southern California, plus Arizona.

Additionally, Nancy Guarascio continues to serve as president of NAUI, following elections held at the annual meeting of the board of directors. A lifetime member of NAUI, Guarascio has been an instructor since 1978. She received NAUI's Outstanding Service Award in 1984.

Serving as board officers with Guarascio are Ken Heist, vice president; John Wozny, secretary; and Walt (Butch) Hendrick, treasurer. Hendrick was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of John Englander. He will serve out the final year of the four-year term.



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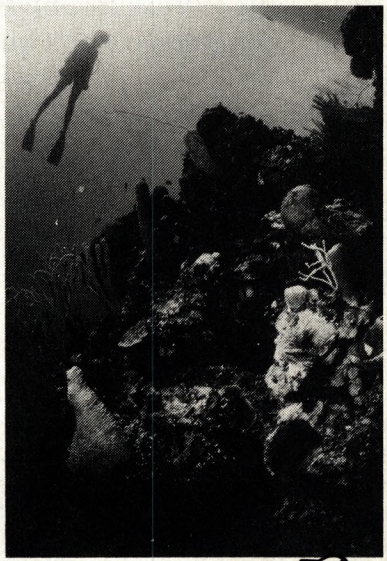


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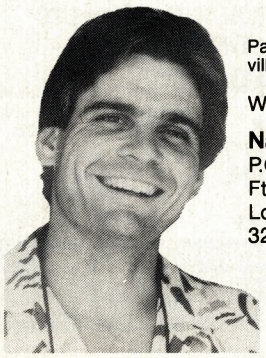
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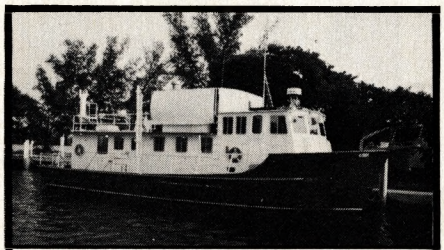
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LORETO

(Continued from Page 109)

mally served by the pools. Cimarron, the upstairs dining area that overlooks the beach, serves great Mexican food. For appetizers, try the clams casino or shrimp fantasy. Seafood lovers should order the fresh grilled lobster or fish fillet meunière. There is also a good selection of meat and poultry entrées. Desserts include fresh pastries and cakes.

Just outside of town, the comfortably appointed hacienda-styled La Mision has indoor and outside seating for 70 and an after hours bar. The ambiance is as pleasant as the food is good. The ceviche is excellent. Sample either the catch of the day *a la Veracruz* or the steak in mustard sauce. Indulge your sweet tooth with the flan for dessert. Embarcadero Restaurant by the water in Loreto has taken advantage of the minimal yearly rainfall in Baja. Its main grill is outside. Although there is indoor seating, the author preferred dining under the trees in a light evening breeze. The food is dynamite. Try either the black bean or tortilla soup. Like the other restaurants in the area, it offers meat, chicken and seafood. If that nights' special is fresh grilled fish and scallops in garlic butter, order it. After dining, people—who still have energy left following a full day of diving, skiing and tennis—can dance the night away at El Presidente's discotheque, Duna.

Fantasia's dive boats easily carry up to 15 passengers each. The 32 foot monohulls cruise at a speed of around 14 knots. The head and changing room are up in the bow. Tanks are arranged in the center of the craft with molded fiberglass and cushioned seats along the sides. Amidships, the crew's upper station provides shade for the passengers. During the cooler months glass curtains are snapped in to form a windbreak. Most divers enter with a backward or forward roll. Twin swim ladders aid exiting the water. The custom built boats are well suited to the local conditions.

The majority of Fantasia Divers' excursions run to the neighboring islands. Generally, there are two dives and a picnic luncheon on a beach. Trips leave at 10:00 am and return around 3:00-4:00 pm. The times are loose. The staff will hold departures for late arriving guests and, often, visitors wishing to explore the islands. On almost every trip, dolphins play around the boats.

There are numerous and varied dive sites. Here's just a few: On a typical day at Isla Coronado, north of Loreto, the first dive might be Punta Blanca. You anchor in the rocks near the shoreline. Descending to the reef you'll discover the rocky bottom slopes and drops in a quick se-

ries of steps from 40 to about 80 feet. Take a light with you to see how vibrant the growth is. Starfish seem to congregate on the boulders. On the sand shelf at 80 feet, bushes of bright, lime green coral stand out like a field of Christmas trees. Gorgonians grow in the crevices. Fish life is plentiful.

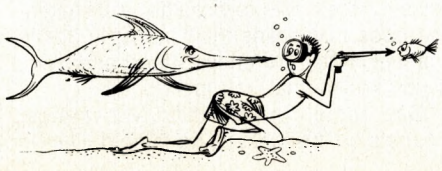
After the dive, you may want to look for sea lions on the point. Your second dive may be at Woodstock, named after a stone formation that resembles the Peanuts cartoon character. This dive has lots of animal life. Look for long green nudibranchs and other invertebrates. Eels often snooze under the deeper ledges. Brown, rust, red and yellow corals decorate the rocks. Schools of wavyline grunts and damselfish drift past you.

On another day you might head south to Isla Danzante. At El Faro Norte (north lighthouse), schools of fish swim close to the boulders. Like many other locations, the profile slopes steeply to around 60 or 70 feet. As you reach the bottom, watch for golden groupers. Pairs of barberfish mill around the slope. Giant damselfish approach divers and dart back to the hollows. In less than 40 feet at the Caves, you can spot all three types of angelfish among the algae covered boulders. One king angelfish felt compelled to greet each buddy team that swam past its rock. Entering a cave at 35 feet, you swim through a short chimney to exit at 25. Other enormous boulders have settled together to form deep recesses that now shelter many different types of fish. Gold-spotted nudibranchs graze on the algae.

Punta Tintorera is a typical site on Isla del Carmen. Whether you go down to 80 feet or stay in the shallows you will find schools of fish. Looking closely on the outcrops you'll see red and blue blennies. Gobies and blennies reside in the colonial cup corals, encrusting sponges and abandoned worm tubes. Porcupine puffers and burrfish hang in the shadows. Shallower, the crevices become wider. The sides and archways are often covered with orange and red encrusting sponges and cup corals. In these channels and caverns mill snappers, parrots and cardinalfish.

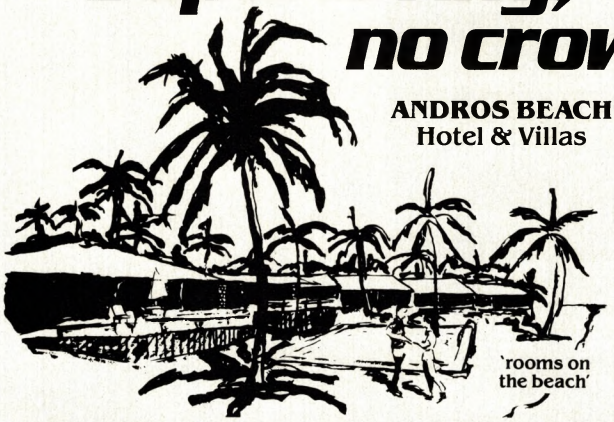
If you love the marine environment, then you will love Loreto. The staff at Fantasia Divers de Loreto takes the time to share the whole Baja scene with visitors. Groups that stay for the week even get an opportunity to visit a desert oasis for a cookout on their last evening. Chances are that even if you can only stay for a short time on your first visit, your next trip will be longer.

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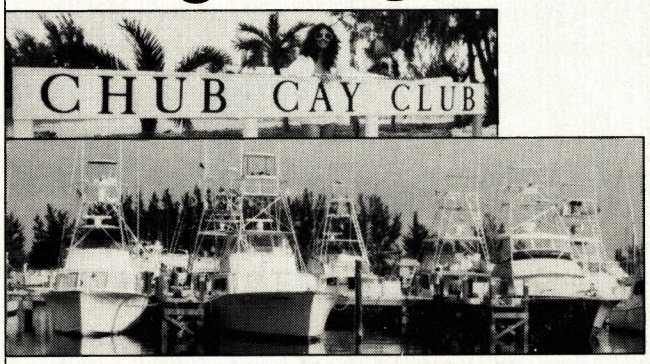
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MALDIVES

(Continued from Page 99)

they slowly moved aside to let me pass. I kept thinking of all the wonderful close-ups I could have gotten of all these fish, if I only I had had my camera.

Another overhang was filled with holocentrids, a small red species with large eyes. Called *menpachi* in Hawaii, it brings a prime price on the fresh fish market there. These fish were nearly twice the size as those I used to spear in Hawaii and Palau. They were almost a foot long and very heavy through the body. I would guess they numbered in the hundreds.

During this and other dives, I was able to swim very close to the normally shy big bumphead wrasses, another common



Boats tie up to a cannon—a remnant of the Portuguese occupation in the 1600s.

species in the Maldives. Large jacks, trevally or crangids, called *ulua* in Hawaii, are common and one day I was able to watch a school of smaller crangids feasting on small reef fish hiding in the coral. Their bright blue and gold coloring was magnificent as they cruised slowly back and forth, directly in front of me, just over the top of the broken surface of coral. Suddenly, with a jet-like burst of speed, they would dart forward and swallow a fish that had grown careless and strayed a bit too far from its hiding place.

Swimming above a drop-off at sunset on a glassy calm day is an unparalleled event in the Maldives. Just below the surface are little halfbeaks foraging for planktonic foods. Small surgeon and black triggerfish, with long, waving dorsal fins, swim among the halfbeaks. Clouds of small baitfish feed in the water mass from the surface to the coral reef bottom, diving toward the bottom for shelter when startled. Occasionally, a reef shark cruises by, usually accompanied by a small striped remora. Eels, with their heads thrust well clear of their holes, open and close their mouths to push water over their gills to breathe, a threatening pose that belies their normally docile manner. They are easy to feed and train, if you know what you are doing.

One of the most beautiful, yet strange, animals on the reefs is the crinoid. During

THE ORION

Queen Of Shipwrecks

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG PERRINE

On December 22, 1981, 300 pounds of dynamite changed diving in Florida forever. As helicopters hovered overhead and television and still cameras whirred away, a mighty blast ripped open the *Orion*'s hull and sent her straight to the bottom in 95 feet of water. Within months, half a dozen dive businesses had sprung up in Miami, a city that formerly was considered by divers to be only a gateway—to the Keys, the Bahamas or islands of the Caribbean.

Actually the third ship to be sunk as part of Dade County's Artificial Reef Program (a barge and a wooden fishing boat had been sunk in the months previous), the *Orion* was the first to embody the stately lines of a classic shipwreck. An ocean going tugboat, she sits erect on the bottom, her propellers, engines and superstructure intact. Her wheelhouse reaches to within 55 feet of the surface. Considered by many to be the flagship of Miami's growing fleet of shipwrecks (about two dozen have been sunk within sport diving depths so far), she is visited by more than 200 divers every month. "I would definitely say the *Orion* is the most popular wreck dive off Miami," says Captain R.J. Arnove of R.J. Diving Ventures, "because it's upright, because it's only 20-25 minutes from the port of Miami and because the depth is perfect for an artificial reef. At under 100 feet, most people can dive it."

On one of those unpredictable occasions when the Gulf Stream graces Miami divers by sending a ring of clear blue oceanic water inshore, the entire 118 foot length of the wreck can be seen, except for those portions obscured by the swirling halo of grunts that envelops most of the superstructure. On a more typical day, visibility might range from 20 to 60 feet and the plankton-rich coastal water carries a greenish hue that imparts an aura of mystery to the wreck and its shimmering swarms of fish.

The same plankton that color the water green provide a rich food source for the many filter feeding invertebrates and fish that have colonized the wreck. And, these in turn feed the grazing and predatory fish that roam the rusting hulk. In contrast to wrecks that have been sunk in Caribbean water and remain virtually unchanged years later, there has been a veritable explosion of life on the *Orion*. From stem to stern the bare metal has been converted into a riotous salad bowl of marine life. Tiny brittlestars clamber about pink, red and white gorgonians. Gaudy angelfish nip off bits of crayon-colored sponges. Iridescent barnacles lap up morsels of plankton with flickering "tongues." Rich beds of thorny oysters and scallops can be found on the undersides of ledges. Even small black coral trees have appeared, prompting veteran Miami diver Tom Mount to comment, "That sort of blows away all their theories on growth rates of black coral."



Peering into the hold just beneath the wheelhouse gives the illusion of opening a chest full of gold coins. Sunlight glints off thousands of metallic rounded bodies belonging to the dense school of copper sweepers that has taken up residence there. With living space at a premium on Miami's low, crowded natural reefs, the high profile of an upright shipwreck like the *Orion* offers an attractive alternative in the form of elegant condominium-style living for such larger fish as green morays and 50-60 pound Warsaw groupers. Many of the more edible varieties of large fish, however, find their leases prematurely terminated by spearfishermen.

Even fish that will not enter the wreck are attracted to it because of its size. Barracuda and amberjack can sometimes be seen hovering nearby while hogfish and large stingrays cruise the flats below. Cobia and jacks often accompany the rays, hoping for scraps at mealtime. Big turtles occasionally swim by, and billfish have been seen jumping at the surface.

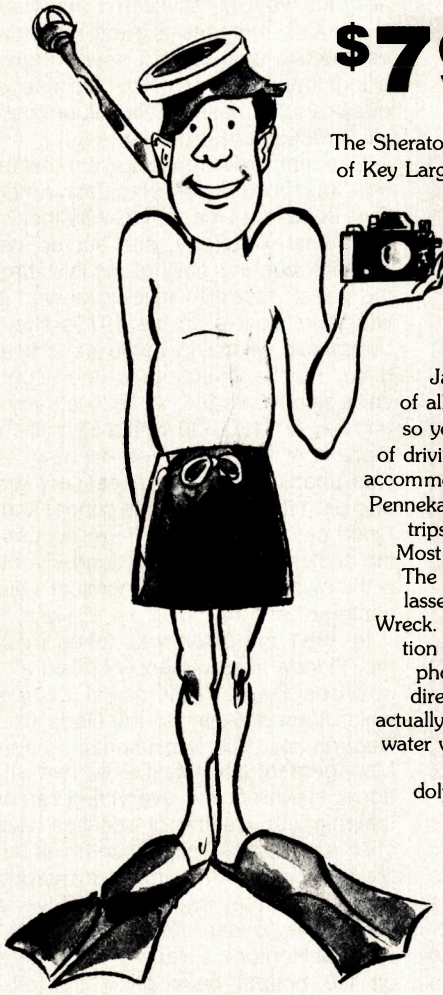
Just to the west of the *Orion* is a natural reef. To the east and south are hard bottom flats covered by a thin layer of sand and dotted with small bushes of brilliant red stoplight gorgonians. Just to the north is another artificial reef—this one composed of the weightbelts dropped by divers entering and exiting dive boats! Captain Rick Smith of Pisces Divers says that, for him, a dive on the *Orion* is usually profitable just because "so many people have lost so much gear on it. I've picked up goodie bags, tables, slates, numerous knives and lights, fins, masks, etc." Smith adds that he considers the *Orion* to be an ideal wreck dive because "it's exactly the way you envision a shipwreck to look. And, it makes a great night dive—very active and colorful, much more exciting than other wrecks. We see eels, nudibranchs, basketstars, blooming corals, crustaceans, you name it."

Like many of Miami's current residents, the *Orion* is an import from Latin America. Built in 1928 as the *Trinidad* by the Panama Canal Company, she served nearly one-half century pulling vessels through the canal, first with electric power, then with twin diesels. In the 1970s she was brought to Miami to serve as a floating diesel mechanic school for the economically disadvantaged. A 1976 survey valued her at $125,000 with a $2 million replacement cost. However, her new owner was unable to get the necessary grants and permits to operate the school and the *Orion* sat on the Miami River accumulating dock fees and deteriorating. Eventually the owner became economically disadvantaged and dropped out of sight.

In 1981 the *Orion* was taken over by the Florida Department of Natural Resources Derelict Removal Program, which turned it over to the Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM). DERM had all the doors taken off and everything removed that might be a safety or pollution hazard. Then a couple of well-placed holes by the Metro-Dade Bomb Squad transformed the aging beauty from a Miami River derelict to the "queen of the shipwrecks." A wave of Neptune's wand and a few years on the bottom have given her all the adornments befitting a queen.

A dive on the *Orion* is always exciting. Sometimes it gets almost too exciting with the Gulf Stream current whipping past like an underwater gale. The current, like visibility, is impossible to predict and may change direction and run to the south, or stop entirely. On strong current days a tag line is used for divers to pull themselves from the stern of the dive boat up to the anchorline for a hand-over-hand descent. The current usually eases toward the bottom, but is often too strong to swim against on the surface. Divers with little experience in dealing with current are advised to check conditions with the dive shop before boarding, seek advice from the captain and mates, and be prepared to abort the dive if necessary. Usually, though, the inconvenience of having to imitate a flag on a windy day while descending the anchorline is forgotten as the majestic tug appears in the depths, her smokestack still pointing skyward, surrounded by her scaly subjects.

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the day they are bunched up and look like a black spiny urchin. As the sun sinks they seem to blossom, stretching their leafy appendages out like big multi-colored flowers. As they strain minute food particles from the current, they clutch a coral perch with their claw-like feet.

Large parrotfish swam through the water discharging clouds of fine coral dust that formerly contained the animals that made the corals the fish had eaten and digested. Large groupers are commonly seen suspended in the midwater area or lazing about the bottom. Large goatfish, some golden yellow in color, their whiskers proudly protruding before them, prod the sandy bottom searching for a suitable snack. In their caves and under their overhangs, holocentrids swarm, some upside down as they orient themselves to the top of the cave rather than the bottom. They are waiting for darkness to come so they can leave the safety of their hole to feed on small planktonic animals in the midwater level.

On another swim off the eastern end of the island of Kuredu in the Shaviyani atoll to the north of Male, I swam over another common denizen, a large ray some six feet in diameter. He was lying all snuggled up in a bed of white sand and blended in so well he was almost invisible, except for his eyes, which followed my every move.

I also saw a few large rabbitfish grazing on algae coated coral surfaces. In Australia, they are called spineys and certain species of this family are among the most delicious of fishes. The large species I saw in the Maldives always seems to travel in pairs, something I have not seen in many other species except for some butterflyfishes and another species of rabbitfish.

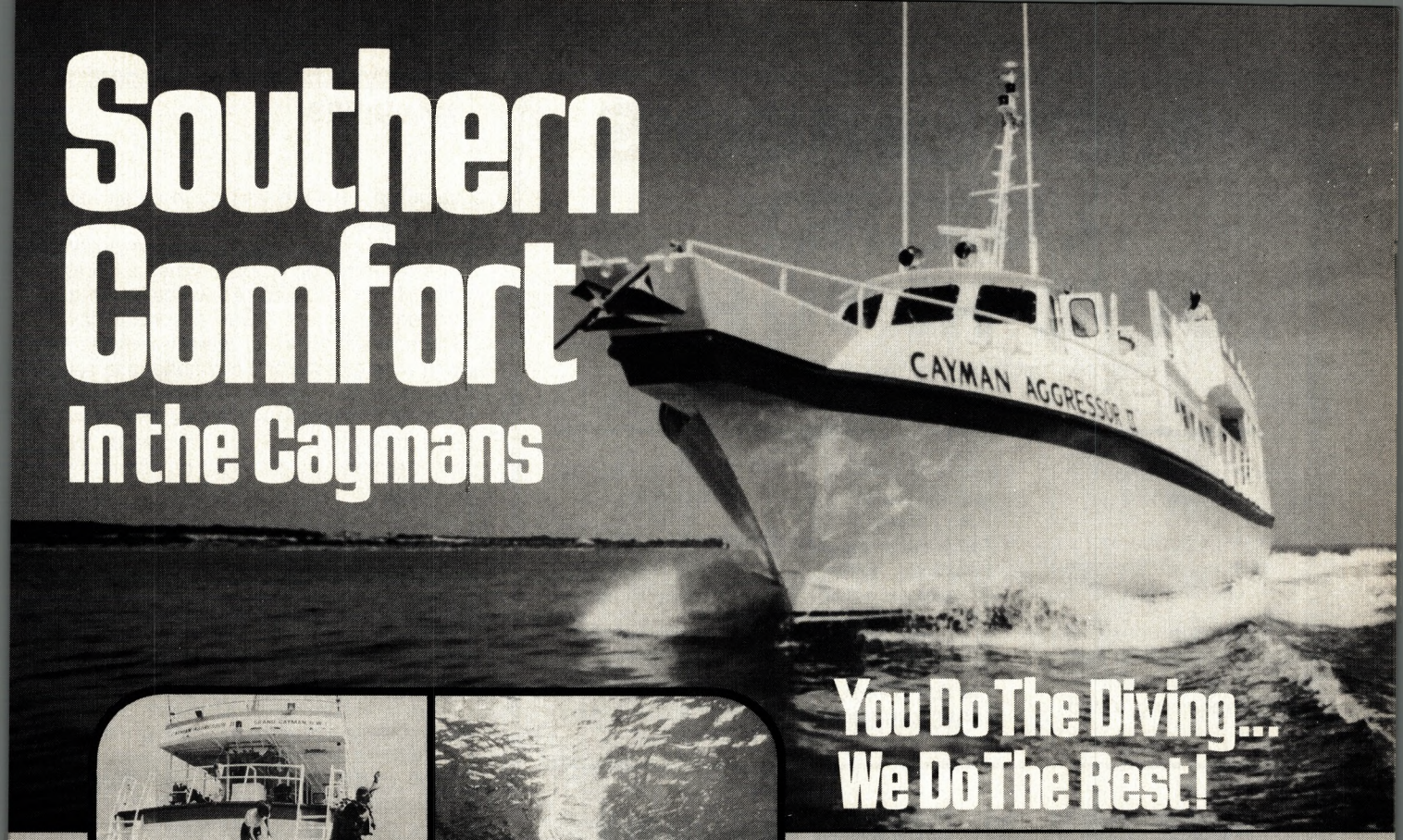
Under the ledges and in the coral crevices, the venemous but beautiful lionfish slowly cruised about, large feathery dorsal and pectoral fins extended. While they are gorgeous to look at, they are dangerous to handle. There are so many beautiful fish occurring in abundance on the reefs it is difficult to describe them all. Some of the more spectacular ones are the blue surgeonfish, which is a brilliant blue and has bright yellow dorsal fins. Another species of surgeonfish is the same color, but has a yellow caudal fin.

Other species of common, but spectacular surgeonfish are the large lumpheaded surgeons. Some of them have horns like unicorns and some have none. These latter are probably females.

Dense schools of the small fish, mostly used for tuna fishing in the Maldives, are also common above the drop-off areas. Their bodies reflect the sun as they swim in tight formation avoiding predators.

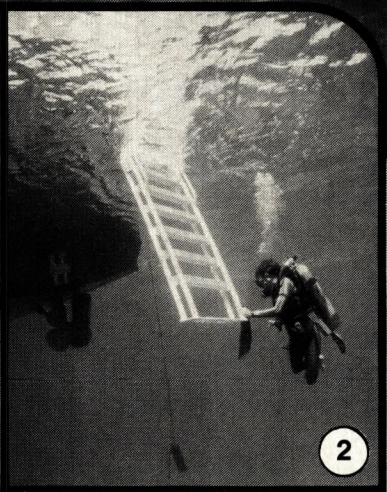
Our dive took 55 minutes. I reluctantly

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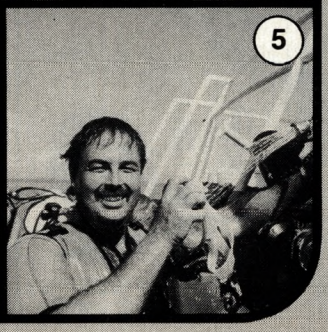
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MALDIVES

came up, as there was no more air and it was growing dark. I felt lonely at first, but the joy of the dive had turned everyone on and even a non-German such as myself was included. As we came up to the dock, I knew it was a special day: There, waiting for us, were two waiters with wine glasses and champagne to celebrate Unger's 2,900th dive and the 60th dive of a friend of his. I felt as if we were celebrating my first dive in one of the most remarkable places it has been my pleasure to work and visit.

TAYLOR/UNEXSO

Barry Taylor has been appointed vice president of UNEXSO, the Underwater Explorers Society, of Freeport, Grand Bahama. He became a director of UNEXSO in 1984. A native of Canada, he first came to the Bahamas 13 years ago. Before joining UNEXSO, he was president of Bahama Cement Company and controller of the Bahamas Princess Hotel in Freeport. A certified diver since 1976, he holds a business degree from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and is a member of the Society of Management Accountants of Canada.

PASSPORTS REQUIRED IN BELIZE

The government of Belize recently announced that United States citizens will need a valid passport to enter that country. A visa is not required. Questions regarding this new policy should be directed to the Belize Embassy in Washington, D.C. or the Belize Tourism Office, 12 Regent Street, P.O. Box 325, Belize City, Belize, Central America; telephone 011-501-027213.



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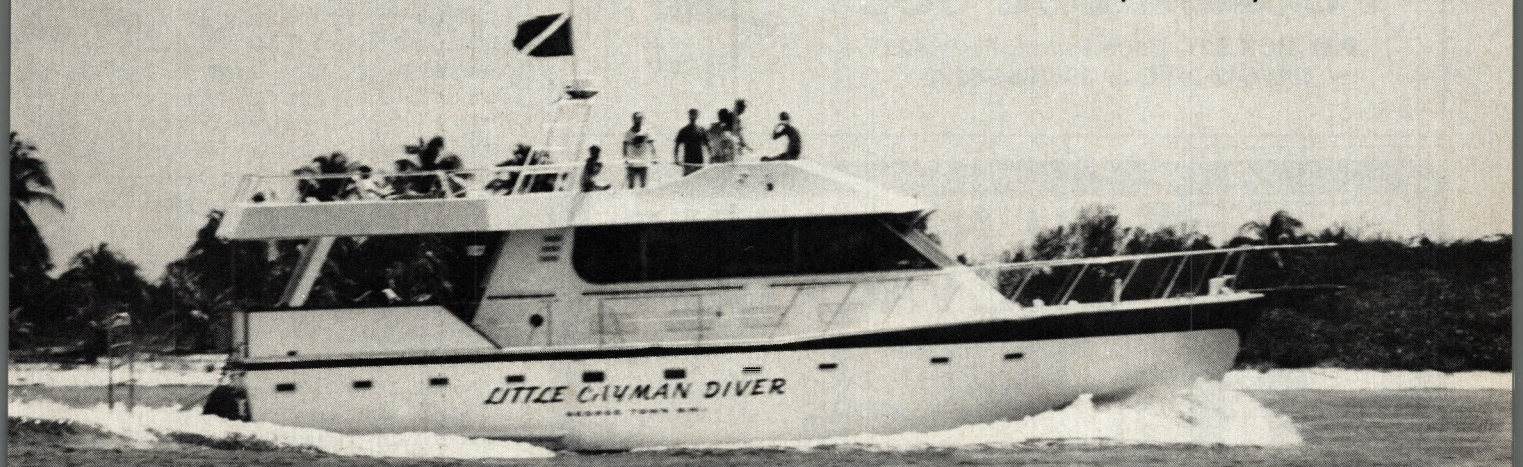
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NASE INSURANCE

The National Association of Scuba Educators (NASE) has acquired a complete line of general liability insurance for its instructors and dive stores. Policies allow selection of both amount of coverage and time period of coverage. Those stores or instructors closing operations for the winter will not need to purchase insurance for those months.

Instructor policies are available to all NASE members. Membership application is made when liability protection is purchased. Those eligible for membership include: 1. Any scuba instructor who is active and in good standing with his/her present agency officed in the United States; 2. Any scuba instructor who lost his/her teaching status during 1985, 1986 or 1987 because of nonpayment of liability insurance or annual dues.

There are no crossover fees to become a member of NASE during the insurance application and membership enrollment period, which ends July 31. After that, all crossovers will be subject to rules and regulations adopted by instructor trainers in different geographical areas.

Those who teach 20 or fewer students a year will be offered an insurance plan providing coverage at a reduced premium. This is an ideal plan for the professional individual who has selected scuba instruction as a hobby or a sport that he/she would like to share with friends.

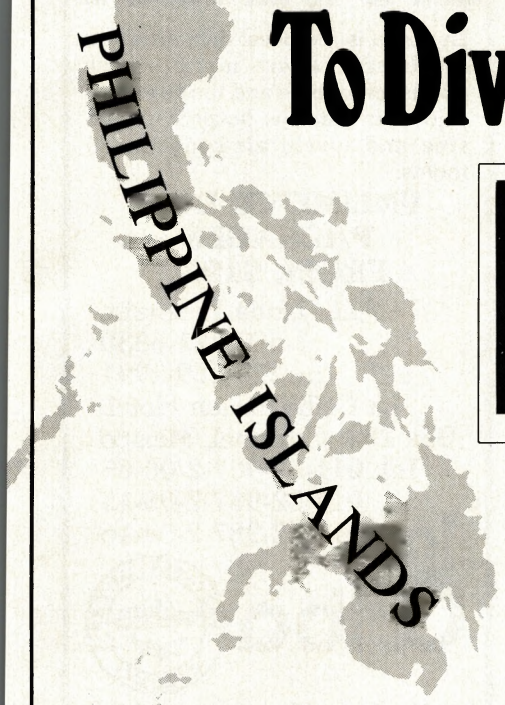
For more information telephone NASE at (806) 744-6056 or (806) 762-2903.

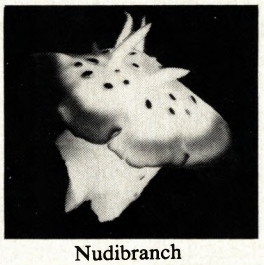
DIVE NEW JERSEY U/W PHOTO CONTEST

In conjunction with its annual dive symposium, Dive New Jersey—and Beyond, which will be held Saturday, November 7 at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey, the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs will host its second annual underwater photography contest. Contestants may enter as many as three photos in categories including warm water wide angle and close-up, and local waters wide angle and close-up. The highlight of this year's contest is a grand prize that includes unlimited diving, hotel and three meals a day at Anthony's Key Resort on Roatan.

Contestants must be amateur photographers and must reside within the states of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware or Maryland. Entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, September 30. Winners will be notified two weeks prior to the dive symposium. For information or entry blanks, contact Herb Segars, Dive New Jersey Photo Contest, 829 Herbertsville Road, Brick, NJ 08724.

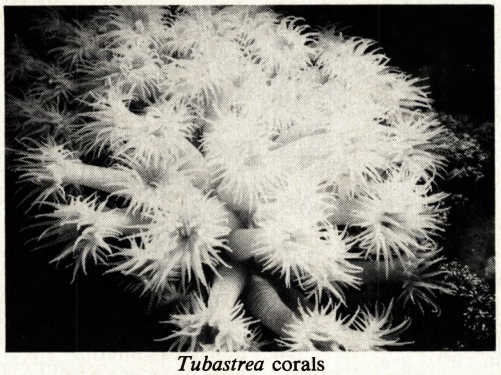
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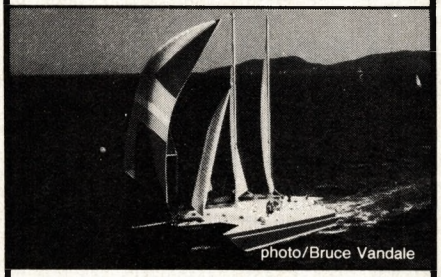
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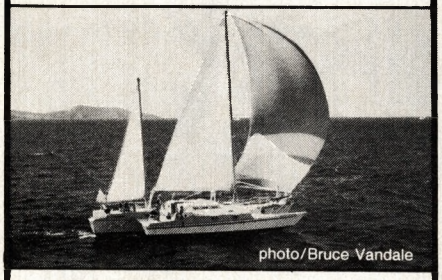
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SEA FANS MAGAZINE

A Unique Video Compendium Of Our U/W World

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

As the world of recreational diving continually expands and changes, the need for information regarding new equipment, travel options, photographic education and marine biology and ecology issues also increases. Perhaps the most exciting new communications format is video, and now Sea Fans offers a uniquely professional video vehicle to impart both information and entertainment.

Available either through annual subscriptions, a toll free order desk or dive shop retail outlets—and in video formats



Sea Fans crew on location in the Keys.

including VHS, Beta and 8mm—Sea Fans is a quarterly video "magazine." As such, each issue will follow a general theme, but the topics covered will vary. Subjects likely to be included in each issue are reviews of several popular dive destinations; a dive adventure; a remote and exotic underwater experience; an underwater photo clinic by a prominent photo professional; a marine life story; an update on diver safety and training; and an interview with a diving celebrity. Admittedly this is a wealth of information to be packed into a 90 minute cassette, yet Sea Fans has been able to communicate within this basic format quite effectively. It has created a fascinating new product to fill a very viable market need.

The Sea Fans concept began two years ago when a pair of practicing attorneys became avid sport divers. John Evans and Lynne Eisaquirre are husband and wife and had been working in Denver as attorneys for more than nine years

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when the scuba bug bit. They realized their future involved the dive industry in some form and more than anything they hoped to be able to relate their joy of diving. Underwater video became their tool of communication and the evolution from videó hobbyist to video production professional came rather quickly. First came the idea for the video magazine, then came the market research to assure that such an innovative product would be accepted. One key statistic indicates that at least 48 percent of American homes now have at least one video cassette recorder and the percentage is probably much higher for diving households given the upscale demographics of the sport's participants. The final part of the Sea Fans formula was the recruitment of the team necessary to make their dream reality.

Scott Ogle came on board as director of photography, bringing more than 15 years of experience in video and film production. Jimmy Ibbotson was a college roommate of John's who had since gone on to fame as the lead vocalist, song writer and guitar player for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. With his 18 years of stage entertainment experience and on-camera background as co-host for the PBS syndicated television program Country Express, as well as being an avid sport diver, Jimmy was a natural choice for a host position. Lynne Eisaquirre joined the crew as co-host and screenwriter. Lew Eisaquirre left Price Waterhouse to become business manager for Sea Fans and Sue Eisaquirre left her position with Xerox to direct marketing efforts. Ad manager Bob Barsick was recruited from an advertising agency; Doug Steebner left a full time career in the recreational dive business to handle the telemarketing and work as a video technician. With such an impressive pool of talent to direct the operation, the next step was to acquire the hardware to record underwater video professionally on location.

The location camera of choice was a Sony Betacam BVW-30. Not to be confused with any of the consumer model videos, it costs $40,000 without the housing and the lens alone is worth $6,000. This is a high speed recording format that will run through a special two hour cassette in 20 minutes. It is probably the finest field video unit available to the broadcast industry. A custom aluminum housing permits underwater use and a pair of 350 watt lights render realistic colors for the underwater scenes. The whole system is massive and expensive.

Typically, a crew of four to seven travels on location, most often in one week blocks. Twenty to 30 of the 20 minute cassettes, as much as ten hours of original videotape, will be shot on each location and ultimately edited down to a single 20 minute segment. All editing is done in Denver where the sophisticated post-production facilities include digital special effects, mixers and computer paint boxes. After the week of location



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SEA FANS

work, another week is necessary to log the tape time codes prior to entering the editing studio. As much as one hour of studio editing time (at $200 to $300 per hour) is required to complete a single minute of finished tape. The Betacam original is bumped up to a one inch master, scored with original music and an audio track is added in a separate studio. This master videotape is then duplicated on hi-fi stereo videotape stock and offered for sale. Given the talent of the principals involved, the quality and expense of the production hardware and the care and technical sophistication that goes into the post production efforts, it is little wonder Sea Fans has made a significant impact with only two issues on the market and a third presently in production.



The Sea Fans crew (left to right): Lynne Eisaquirre, John Evans, Doug Steebner and Scott Ogle. A crew of 4-7 travels on location in one week blocks. Ten hours of videotape is distilled into 20 minutes.

I first met the Sea Fans production crew when they traveled to Key Largo, Florida to shoot a segment featuring me for the summer 1987 issue. The ever-increasing quality of the Sea Fans video productions will assure their success in the marketplace, but I was additionally impressed by their businesslike demeanor and attention to detail, even before they arrived on location. While on location the crew was organized, professional and competent. I enjoyed my brief association with Sea Fans and will look forward to future issues of their magazine.

Annual subscriptions to Sea Fans are $99.95 and single issues are only $29.95. Considering the time and expense that goes into the production of each issue, this is definitely a bargain. For tape orders or dealer information phone toll free (800) 622-8767 or, in Colorado, (303) 750-0055. Mail inquiries may be addressed to Sea Fans Video Magazine at 7800 East Iliff Avenue, Suite E, Denver, Colorado 80231.



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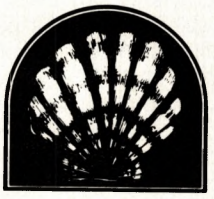
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O.S. SYSTEMS REPS

O.S. Systems of Scappoose, Oregon, has appointed new sales representatives for the following territories: John Carter (919) 379-8337—Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee; Ted Masotti, Jr. (609) 693-9578—Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware; and Roger H. Moore (305) 288-3263—Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

AMIDON JOINS NASDS

Walt Amidon has ben appointed retail sales consultant for the National Association of Scuba Diving Schools (NASDS).

Amidon will be assisting the existing NASDS membership with the growth and development of their businesses, along with adding new stores. He can be contacted at (213) 595-5361.

ANCHOR CONTEST

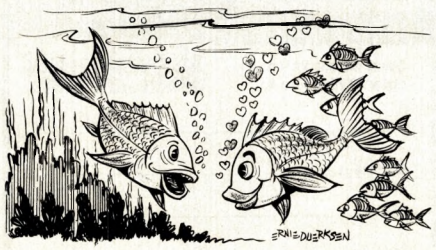
Ski & Scuba Sports, Inc. of Westwood, New Jersey, is holding an anchor contest, open to the general public. Participants are asked to guess the weight of a large anchor retrieved during a wreck dive in the Berry Islands in 1983. The contest runs through the end of August and first prize is a BC. Second prize is a dive watch.

Participants are allowed unlimited entries. For further information contact Ski & Scuba Sports, 32 Westwood Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey 07675; (201) 666-1323.

UNEXSO DOLPHINS

Six Atlantic bottlenose dolphins have been brought to Freeport for a truly unique program, "The Dolphin Experience." The dolphins arrived in Freeport on chartered plane from the Bay of Campeche, in Mexico. After the six hour flight they were in good health. They were initially placed in an isolated residential canal, approximately one mile from the UNEXSO facility.

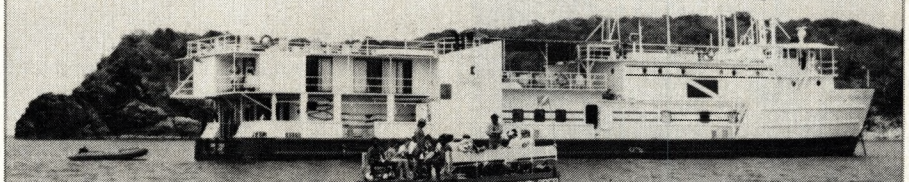
The dolphins are being trained to be a part of an interactive program with divers (and nondivers) that would culminate in their being released from their pens on a daily basis to swim on the coral reefs with divers and snorkelers.



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MR. CHRIS ANGELO—LONG BEACH, NC
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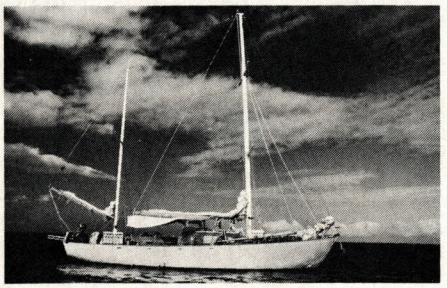
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See & Sea Travel is offering trips aboard the *Cadaques* to Guadeloupe and Dominica in the French Caribbean. For four years See & Sea sent groups of 4-6 divers to *Cadaques* for one week sailing/



diving cruises. New owners will be operating *Cadaques* in the same grand manner—comfort, personal service, French food and wines, and some remarkable diving/photography.

For information contact See & Sea Travel, Inc., 50 Francisco Street, Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133 or call (800) DIV-XPRT; in California call (415) 434-3400.

PADI MANUAL

PADI Headquarters has shipped its new *PADI Instructor Manual* to its instructors and local area offices worldwide. There was no charge to renewed PADI Instructors for it.

The new manual was completely redesigned to streamline use. Students taking



PADI courses will find their instructors able to make more efficient use of time and increase ease of learning. Additionally, the new manual helps ensure consistent educational quality, regardless of where courses are held.

One reason for producing the new manual was to update it to the new industry standards for training beginning divers. These standards, agreed upon by the major scuba training agencies, are reflected in revisions of the PADI open water diver entry-level course.

VIKING TO OHIO

Viking America, Inc. recently moved its base of operations to Solon, Ohio. The new location provides more space for inventory and repairs. A mainframe computer network will also provide better or-

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der tracking and a more sophisticated accounting system.

Viking America, Inc. produces drysuits for sport, military, search and rescue and commercial diving. Viking is also the U.S. distributor for AGA full facemasks and Poseidon regulators. For more information, contact Viking at the new address: 30700 Solon Industrial Parkway, Solon, Ohio 44139; (216) 248-8600.

LA UPS COMPETITION

The Underwater Photographic Society of Los Angeles is again sponsoring its International Underwater Photographic Competition. Entrants from around the world are invited to compete with prints and slides in five categories. The deadline for entries is October 17. A plaque and $75 will be awarded first place in each category, with a plaque and $25 for second and a medal for third.

Best of Show will be awarded a plaque plus a round trip for two, courtesy of Bahamasair, from Miami to New Providence Island in the Bahamas. There the winner and a friend will have a week's stay at the new Divi Bahamas Beach Resort and Country Club, with unlimited diving furnished by Peter Hughes' Dive South Ocean. The winner will also have a free rental car courtesy of the coordinators of the package, Sea Safaris.

For further information and competition rules, write to Lance Bennett, Underwater Photographic Society, P.O. Box 2401, Culver City, CA 90231-2401.

MARINER 75

(Continued from Page 26)

that enhances resistance to scuffing (very important with poor fuels and lubricants). The crankshaft is fully balanced and utilizes cracked cap connecting rods, which improve the contact surface, reducing bearing failures and improving durability.

Other new features on the 75 horsepower engine include: a temperature and pressure controlled cooling system; larger internal water passages that are much more tolerant to passing foreign debris; and new "nitrile" gaskets that are bake cured during the paint cycle to provide better sealing.

The induction system has been improved. It utilizes a conical shaped reed block rather than the older styled reed stops that shared each cylinder. The new "rose petal" design aids in fuel atomization, which distributes the fuel evenly for better idling and less smoke.

The Mariner 75 is a solid combination of strong horsepower and simple maintenance. With a base sticker price of about $3,034, it is easily affordable. With a network of more than 6,000 dealers and a commonality of interchangeable parts, you should never be off the water for very long. For a complete list of standard features and available options, see your nearest Mariner dealer.

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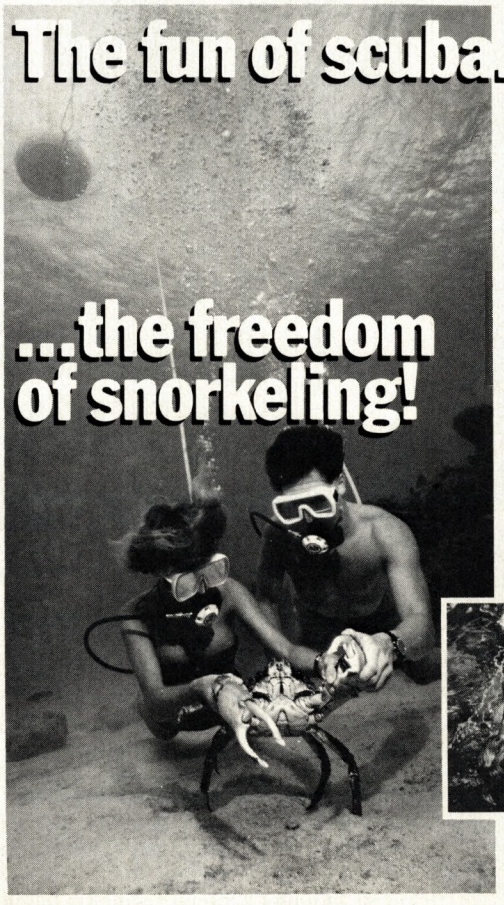
7 night/8 day Land Package: $479 per person*
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Participating beach resort hotels with Pelican dive centers on the property: Golden Tulip Aruba Caribbean Hotel & Casino: 1-800-344-1212 or 1-800-223-6510; Aruba Concorde Hotel & Casino: 1-800-223-7944; NY State 1-800-422-8436; NY City (212) 757-8989. American Airlines and Eastern both fly to Aruba twice daily. For groups and dive club information call 1-800-327-6709.

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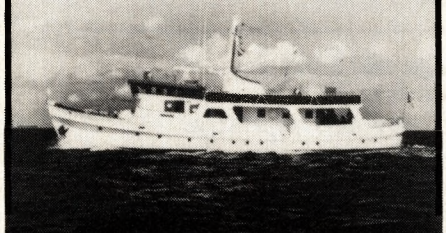
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TREASURE ISLAND RESORT'S PARTY IN PARADISE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

The new Treasure Island Resort on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach is one the most impressive destinations available to the traveling diver. It follows then that the ceremonies celebrating the property's grand opening should also be impressive. They called it a "Party in Paradise." On May 13 and 14, Nashville and Grand Cayman collaborated to introduce this magnificent new dive resort in a most auspicious manner.

The hotel itself features 290 rooms and



The mayor of Nashville speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony at Treasure Island.

96 condominiums, two freshwater swimming pools, a restaurant, conference centers, dive shop, underwater photo center, shopping arcade and a unique nightclub built to the exacting standards of the Nashville recording industry.

The festivities began in the huge marble floored lobby, where the hotel's white-tuxedoed dignitaries mingled with prominent members of the Cayman government and members of the Nashville music industry. Opening remarks by gen-

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eral partners Randy Davidson and Don Denbow acknowledged the multi-year tribulations of bringing a bankrupt condominium complex into new life as Grand Cayman's newest and largest dive resort. They also introduced the "Nashville Connection" inherent in the hotel's infrastructure: Limited partners include Nashville musicians Conway Twitty, Larry Gatlin, Ronny Milsap, Earl Thomas Connley, Deborah Allen, Dave and Sugar, Helen Cornelius and Jerry Reed. With such a constellation of country music stars involved it was natural that The Nashville Network (TNN) would wish to cover the festivities and TNN cable TV host, Ralph Emery, serve as master of ceremonies for the ribbon cutting. Richard Fulton (the mayor of Nashville) and his wife Sandra (commissioner of Tourism for Tennessee), were also there. Peter Lloyd, governor of Grand Cayman, spoke of the island's optimism and appreciation of the contribution Treasure Island will make. Then he cut the ribbon to begin the two day party that officially opened the resort.

Besides TNN, other television crews on hand to record the events included Entertainment Tonight, Cable News Network, ESPN (Scuba World) and the Country Music Network. ABC Radio recorded the nightclub entertainment in 24 track stereo for a "Party in Paradise" special to air this summer. Print media present included People and Billboard magazines, various Nashville newspapers, Ocean Realm and SKIN DIVER. One of the reasons for such media interest was the commitment from many of the limited partners to attend and perform in the nightclub, as well as put on a benefit concert at the Cayman Lion's Club. All festivities, including dinner at the resort's L'Escargot restaurant, admission to the nightclub and all drinks were complimentary for both nights.

Treasure Islands' L'Escargot is operated by chef Otmar Webber, formerly of the Grand Old House. He has brought with him gourmet dining and superior service. His staff of Italian trained waiters served an excellent fresh fish dinner and both white and red wines were abundant.

Following dinner, Silver's nightclub provided some of the finest musical entertainment ever offered on the island. On the evening of the 13th, the show opened with the talented house band, the Sons of the Beach, performing a medley of '50s and '60s rock standards, as well as a few original compositions. All of these were recorded live for a soon-to-be-released album. Pinkard and Bowden did a short music-comedy set, followed by a lively string of hits from Dave and Sugar. Helen Cornelius did a masterful rendering of her special musical portfolio and Conway Twitty and his band closed the show. It was interesting to note that the evening Conway Twitty was performing in Grand Cayman, he had Billboard Magazine's number one country music hit. The whole evening provided a level of musical entertainment not generally associated with

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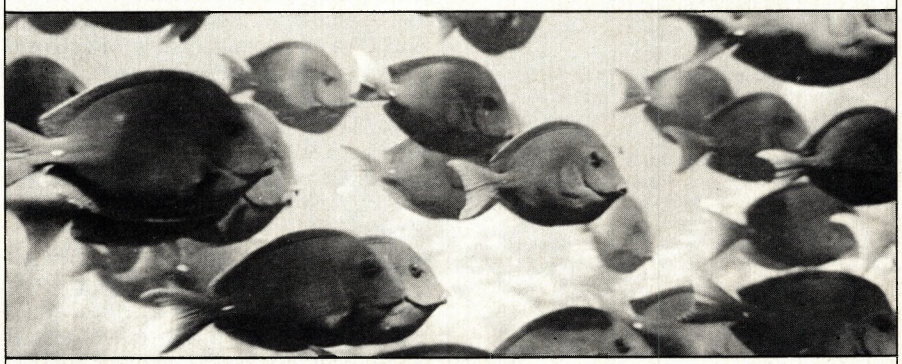
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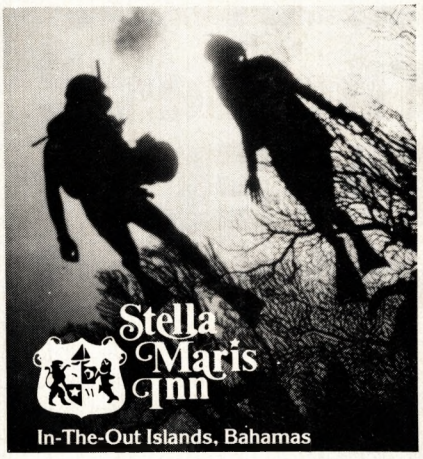
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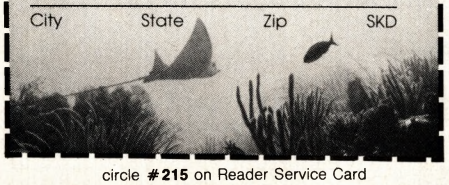
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TREASURE ISLAND

Caribbean travel and was certainly a pleasant surprise to the guests of the grand opening. As if this weren't enough, the whole dinner and nightclub program was repeated on the evening of the 14th.

The Sons of the Beach opened the show on the second night as well and their spirited dance set helped establish the up-tempo mood of the night. Pinkard and Bowden repeated their act and then Earl Thomas Connley and the ETC Band earned a standing ovation by delivering a string of country music hits. Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers closed the show with their repertoire of Grammy award winning music, all presented in an acoustically perfect atmosphere and complemented by excellent stage lighting.



Earl Thomas Connley performs at Silver's, the Treasure Island Resort nightclub.

While the grand opening was tremendous entertainment and certainly a media event, visitors to Treasure Island Resort should be more interested in the day to day operation of the facility. Treasure Island Divers, under the able direction of owners Arthlee Evans and Ashton Ebanks and dive operations manager Dave Nicholson, will continue to provide superior service. The *Gulfstream*, a 65 foot custom live-aboard dive vessel, will be available for two and three night excursions to the more remote and exciting portions of the Cayman underwater world. L'Escargot will offer fine dining and Silver's nightclub will feature excellent entertainment in a beautiful atmosphere. Film processing, camera and video rentals, and photo instruction may be booked through Caribe Photo Center. A whole range of watersports activities, including parasailing, jet skiing and windsurfing are accessible beachside.

The grand opening of Treasure Island Resort was a very special event to introduce a very special resort. For further information or reservations please contact Treasure Island Resort at 3730 Vulcan Drive, Nashville, TN 37211 or phone (800) 223-4707; in Florida the number is (800) 367-4707.

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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 61)

duced serious illness in many instances and death in two cases in Florida.

ORGANIC PESTICIDES

Throughout the world, huge volumes of toxic chemicals are being used to control or eliminate insects, vermin and weeds that are harmful to crops, domestic animals or that spread disease. Stream pollution from pesticides has occurred, mostly from rainwater runoff or from groundwater seepage. Normally, the amount of contamination of pesticides considered harmful is based on how much is ingested through drinking water. Little thought has been given to the amount in water that divers or swimmers might ingest. There is concern about the long range effects of low concentrations of pesticides for the general population—that should probably be greater for divers and swimmers.

HOT WATER AS A CONTAMINANT

Any material in the aqueous environment that is out of place or not in balance with the existing ecosystem can be a pollutant. Just as fresh water can be a contaminant so, too, can hot water affect the environment and the diver. Excessively hot water will not normally be found except occasionally around effluent discharge lines from power generating or other industrial plants that require a great deal of cooling water. Swimming vigorously in water near or at body temperature will create very early fatigue. This could contribute to a situation the diver will be unable to cope with because of greatly reduced energy and stamina.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

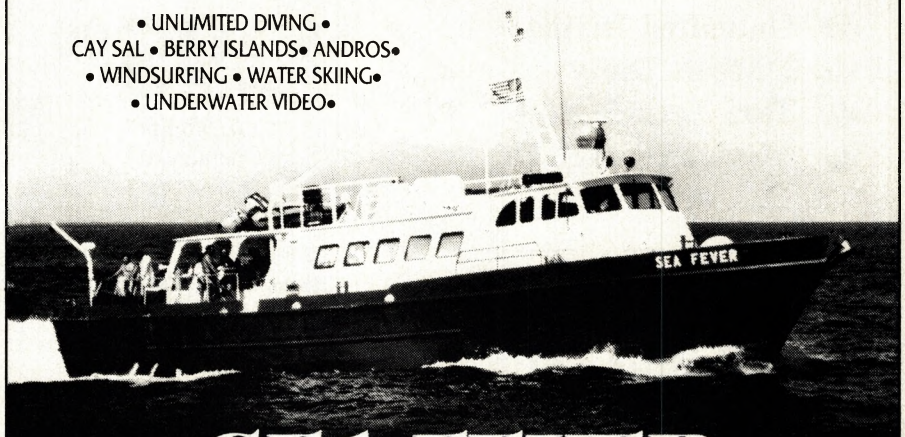
It is remotely possible that sport divers will unknowingly get involved with water having radioactive contamination. So far, the disposal of radioactive wastes has been by methods that have not greatly affected water at diving depths. However, atomic tests by both the U.S. and France have been conducted in marine environments. And, in both cases, tests have been in areas near excellent diving. Both country's tests were conducted far below basic sea level. There must be some concern that seepage of highly radioactive ground water can emerge from the subsurface structure of the atolls and drift with ocean currents to a site where it could affect water in recreational areas.

A considerable amount of diving has been done in radioactive waters; first at Bikini Atoll following the first two atomic bomb tests and later following other tests. Also, commercial divers have developed techniques and equipment for working in slightly radioactive waters associated with cooling water in atomic power generating plants. Such diving was conduct-

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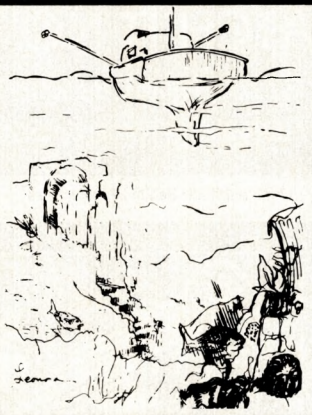
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WRECK FACTS

(Continued from Page 18)

Great Lakes and inland waterway states, burdening them with legal and financial liability for damages caused to surface shipping by state owned shipwrecks.

Suppose, for instance, that a large cargo vessel strikes a wreck that should have been removed from shipping lanes. Who is responsible? Under S-858, the state owns all wrecks and must accept responsibility for destruction of surface shipping and possible injury or death aboard the cargo vessel.

Do you remember the good ship, *Mobro*—a disowned barge that sailed for eight weeks searching for a place to dump 3,100 tons of waste? While the whole nation watched—except for the federal government that looked the other way—the barge without a country raised a big stink. It was rejected by six states, Mexico, Belize and the Bahamas. Finally, the *Mobro* returned to home port, Islip, Long Island, where it was hailed as a symbol of the nation's inability to get rid of its trash.

Suppose the *Mobro* had gone aground, let's say off the coast of New Jersey. Who would own title to the barge and its treasure? Under S-858, New Jersey would! And, New Jersey would be responsible for anything that accidentally crashed into the barge. When the garbage washed ashore on New Jersey beaches and oceanfront property owners sued the state, their attorneys would cite the Rights of Ownership clause in S-858. After all, the barge would be "embedded" in the sand!

In another film classic, *Some Like It Hot*, a 1959 Billy Wilder comedy, Joe E. Brown has been chasing a dizzy blonde all through the picture, not realizing she is really Jack Lemmon in drag. In the closing sequence, Brown asks Lemmon to marry him. Lemmon tells Brown there is something he ought to know.

"In the first place," Lemmon says, "I'm not a natural blonde."

"Doesn't matter," Brown says.

"I smoke. I smoke all the time."

"I don't care."

"I can never have children."

"We can adopt some."

"You don't understand," Lemmon says, exasperated, whipping off his wig. "I'm a man!"

"Well," replies Brown, totally unperturbed, "nobody's perfect!"

Senator Bradley has also been deluded. He was encouraged to sponsor S-858 by people who told him it was noncontroversial. It's up to us to reveal S-858 for what it really is, a very imperfect, unnecessary bill.

I'm asking all of you who want to preserve our perfect record in beating these

bills and retain our rights to dive wrecks without restrictions to write in *now*. Write one letter and photocopy it. Send these to your senators, protesting S-858. Make sure Bradley gets a copy. Here is the address for all senators: (name of senator), Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Please do it *now*!

Safe diving to all. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing: Ellsworth Boyd, 1120 Bernoudy Road, White Hall, MD 21161.

TECHNIFACTS

ed safely. However, special equipment, diving techniques and skilled personnel, well above average sport diving requirements, were involved.

Next month Technifacts will review other diving endeavors that might be hazardous to health. Also, we will review how to recognize potentially hazardous areas, what equipment to wear to avoid the hazards and decontamination procedures to follow if you find you have been exposed to polluted water. To better define the potential for harm to divers who enter contaminated water, readers from around the world are asked to write Technifacts, c/o SKIN DIVER, 8490 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069 about their own experiences with diving in polluted water. The more we know about this seldom mentioned phase of diving safety, the more enjoyable our sport will be.

See you next month for safer diving.



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COMMERCIAL DIVING INSTITUTE

New York Commercial School Conducts In Depth Classes

E.R. CROSS

When it comes to training students for tough, demanding work in the many fields of commercial diving, the staff of Commercial Diving Institute (CDI) in Whitestone, New York, thinks they are the best—and, with good reason. The opening paragraph of a letter sent to all prospective students states, "The life and work of a commercial diver is a hard and demanding one." Later in the same letter school director Larry DeGiacomo says, "A diver's worth is measured by the work that can be accomplished on the bottom." Three months after enrollment, graduates of CDI will probably agree that diving is a demanding job and that CDI was an excellent choice in learning how to combat and solve the many underwater work problems encountered in commercial diving.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Commercial Diving Institute is a privately owned diver training organization. It is on a 10,000 square foot property on the East River between the Whitestone Bridge and the Throggs Neck Bridge. Barges from which training is

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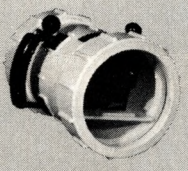


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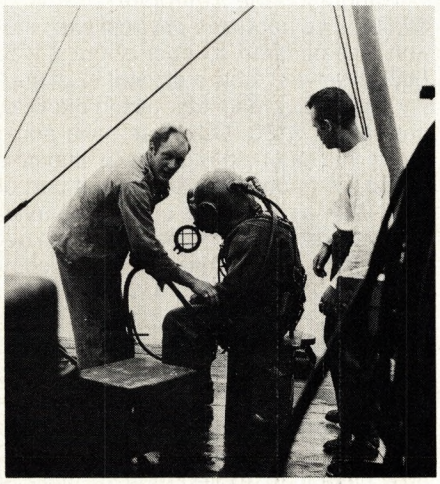
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conducted are part of school owned equipment and are moored alongside the pier. Recompression chambers, welding equipment, mixed gas systems, a diving bell, air compressors, all tools, machinery and related equipment are also stored and used on the school premises.

CDI is a member of the Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE). This association is open only to diving schools in the United States that wish to meet standards of diving training as outlined by various government regulations, member schools and the diving contractors for whom graduates will probably work. CDI is approved for vocational training by the New York Education Department. The instructors are licensed by that organization.

IN DEPTH CLASSES

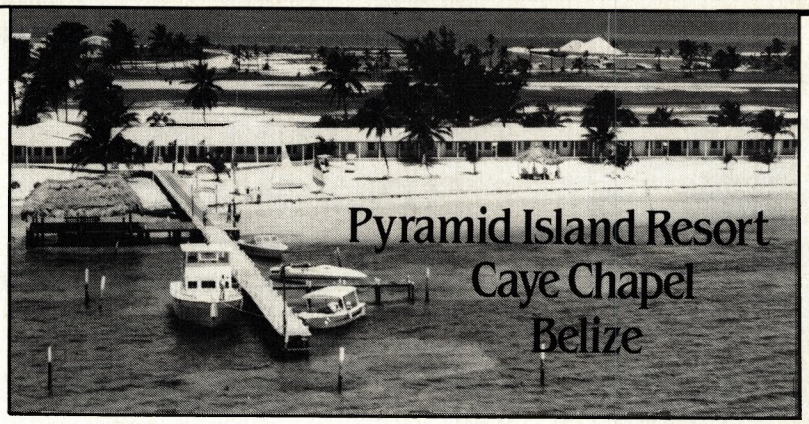
CDI conducts only four classes per year to permit instructors to devote the school's full facilities and staff time to each and every class. There are no overlapping classes. The remaining 1987 class runs September 28 through December 18.



photos/Leigh Wiener

These photos (circa 1946) illustrate conditions encountered by commercial divers.

The maximum enrollment in each class is guaranteed to be no more than 16 students. This assures all students receive in-depth personalized instruction and maximum practice time in all phases of the course, including in-water time. During the 13 weeks of training all Tuesdays are 12 hour days and five Saturdays are school days. During the course, 25 hours are devoted to physical conditioning. William G. Smith, director of training, stated, "My operative word is *tough*." Smith is a former U.S. Navy Frogman who left the service to spend 18 years in commercial diving. He knows the real world of underwater work is both physically demanding and unforgiving of mistakes or lack of physical or technical qualification. The classes at Commercial Diving Institute prepare students for the demands of being safe, successful students and, later, commercial divers.



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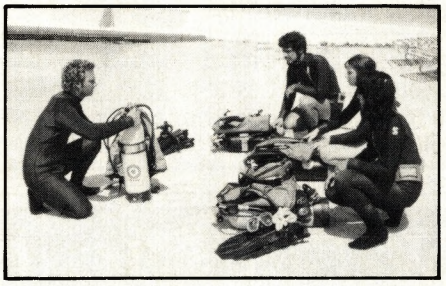
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CDI

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Entrance requirements are commensurate with the type of training CDI conducts and work its graduates are expected to be able to perform. The minimum age for enrollment is 18 years. A high school diploma or equivalent education is desirable. Each candidate for enrollment must pass a pressure and oxygen tolerance test, provided free by CDI. A tough, school approved, medical examination must also be passed. Students are required to provide proof of scuba certification and must have a mechanical aptitude that indicates they can successfully cope with the demands of commercial diving.

TUITION

Tuition for the complete course is $2,500. The approved physical examination is estimated to cost about $175. Equipment and tools a student must supply for training, and later use in the field, cost about $150. CDI does have some perks that can help reduce the student's costs: the opportunity to work off part of the tuition and housing costs, plus innovative work/study programs that help defray some costs. Write to CDI for complete information.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS

CDI instructors are trained teachers as well as field-knowledgeable divers. In addition to being licensed to teach by the New York Education Department, instructors have had experience in several phases of commercial diving. This provides staff members who not only know how to teach but know why what they teach must be known by graduates if they are to be successful in the underwater work force.

Instructors are available evenings and weekends to work with students as tutors. CDI states, "If students are serious enough about their careers as commercial divers to devote their after school time to additional study, we will devote our time, equipment and materials free of charge to help further their careers."

THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Classes and most practical training are conducted on-site at CDI facilities. The exceptions are some field trips. In a letter, Bill Smith stated, "I want CDI to be promoted as an honest course for serious minded students only." The 21 subject course outline indicates students can achieve the excellence in training desired by Smith.

1. Introduction: Anyone entering into a new endeavor needs to know the objectives of the undertaking and the rules and regulations that must be followed in reaching those objectives. So it is at CDI.

The first day of training outlines course contents, Commercial Diving Institute regulations and both present and future employment prospects. Students will be aware of what they are working toward.

2. Underwater Physics and Physiology: Throughout the commercial diving industry it will be found that the most successful divers are those who understand the sciences that affect not only their work but their health, and why and how they can work safely under pressure. This extensive section of training covers the laws of gases and pressure and the direct and indirect effects of pressure on the diver; respiratory problems in diving; air supply formulas; and displacement and buoyancy in the water.

3. Medical Aspects of Diving: This is another "need to know" subject for safe diving. In this segment of the training program, the various physiological effects of diving are discussed. Also, environmental hazards and their treatment are covered. CPR is also part of this segment.



photo/Don English

CDI teaches vital rigging skills such as those illustrated in this old photograph.

4. Decompression Theory and Practice: Important in diving safety, decompression procedures must not only be known, but the reason for their implicit observance must be instilled in divers. In this phase of the course all aspects of decompression are covered, including decompression sickness and treatment.

5. Fittings and Hydraulic Principles: In this age of modern diving most tools used by divers are hydraulically powered. This part of the course provides information on these tools, valves and fittings and safety in the use of the tools.

6. Communications: Safe, effective commercial diving cannot be carried out without communications with surface tenders and support crews. An early introduction—followed by constant practice and actual use of the theory and maintenance of communications equipment—is necessary.

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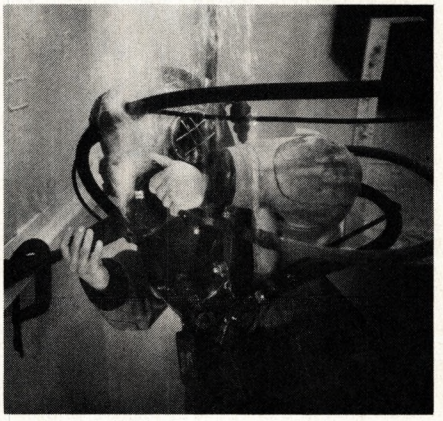
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nance of electronic communication systems, visual and voice communications, line pulls on the umbilical and signals for crane operators—makes for safer and more complete training and the development of professional work habits in future diving jobs.

7. Tending and Setting up a Dive Station: Almost all graduates of CDI will start their careers in commercial diving as diver tenders. This work is surely the most visible of their efforts. How well they perform during the first day of this first job may dictate their future in diving and, certainly, with the company for which they are then working. The safety of the diver, the potential for successfully completing the assigned underwater work and, probably, progress of the entire job, depends on how well the tender performs. This section of CDI's training program stresses the responsibility of the tender, how to set up and operate a dive station, tending procedures and establishing the tender's handbook.

8. Working with Scuba: Not surprisingly, a lot of commercial diving is done with conventional scuba. This is one of the reasons CDI applicants are required to have prior scuba experience. Only a few hours need be devoted to theory, and this



photo/Don English

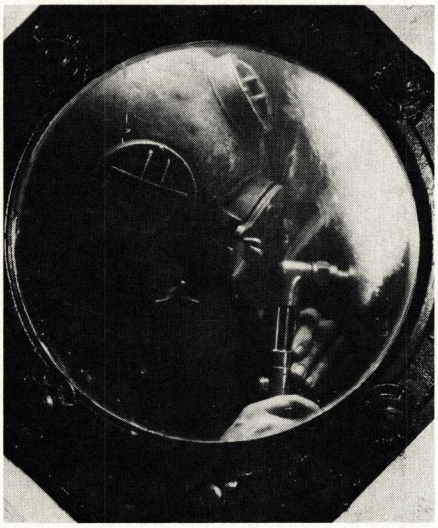
Compressed air tools are often operated by divers—here a chipping gun is used.

in detailing the application of scuba to commercial diving. The balance of this training period can be devoted to working dives with scuba.

9. Surface Supplied Diving: The phrase *surface supplied diving* is used to indicate a type of diving in which the breathing gas is supplied from the surface through an air hose that is part of the umbilical. This term also applies to gas supply through an umbilical leading from the diving lockout bell since the supply of that gas comes to the bell, then to the diver, through the bell umbilical. In this section of CDI training students first learn theories, formulas and breathing gas requirements for various depths and uses. Hose requirements as related to various diving

equipment—and the equipment itself, such as MK V navy gear, lightweight helmets and bandmask outfits—are covered. Wetsuits, drysuits and hot water heated suits are discussed and later used in underwater work projects. There should be no surprises for CDI graduates when they walk on their first diving station to begin their diving for pay.

10. Power Machinery Applicable to Diving: Except for divers' own physical strength, all power to accomplish underwater jobs is generated topside and transmitted to the diver through one or more umbilicals. This power is generated by diesel or gasoline driven engines or electric motors. These energy sources drive compressors for diver's air, air driven tools, airlifts, etc.; water pumps for jetting or hydro-blasting; or pumps to provide power for hydraulic tools. Trouble-



shooting, maintenance and record keeping of this equipment is frequently an important part of the diver's work.

11. Seamanship and Rigging: Everyday a diver works, knots, rigging and seamanship will play a significant role in the success of job accomplishment, whether it be during training or later on. A short classroom session followed by extensive practice prepares a student for solving some knotty problems. Navigational rules of the road, charts and chart symbols are an important, though brief, part of the student's training at this point.

12. Underwater Work Projects: While some phases of the preceding segments of training are conducted in classrooms, important parts are also scheduled as underwater training. However, it is in this lengthy part of CDI training that student divers begin to realize the real difficulty of successfully accomplishing underwater work. All projects are worked on in open water in real world diving conditions. Knots, bends, splices, the adaptation of topside tools, constructing pipe and flange fit-up projects, jetting, measuring "in the blind," airlifting, penetration into pipelines and using hydraulic and compressed air tools are but a few of the undertakings in this period of training.

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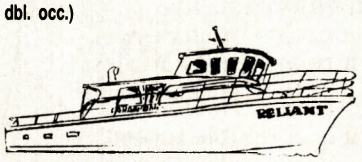
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13. Cutting and Welding Principles and Practical Application: The two principal kinds of U/W metal cutting are electric and gas with various methods of electric arc cutting the most used. Underwater welding may be either wet stick or hyperbaric (dry or habitat) welding. Of these procedures, U/W cutting is used much more frequently than welding; usually because the diver is not trained and qualified to perform inspection grade welding. Thorough training and exhaustive practice in U/W cutting and welding can produce skills for a diver that will help generate job possibilities. The instructors at CDI help a student become proficient in these skills by seeing that poor, or potentially hazardous, techniques are not developed during practice.



photo/Felix Barlow

Ship hull inspection is just one of the duties performed by commercial divers.

14. Blueprint Reading: The few hours CDI students spend on this subject will make a great deal of difference in their future work. Many times a diver is shown a blueprint and told to inspect an object indicated on the drawing only by line, a symbol or other mark. A diver must be able to translate the marks into a dimensional object for inspection. After the underwater inspection is completed, the diver may make corrections from what the "marks" indicate should be there to what was actually found to exist. The ability to work with blueprints is an important qualification for making good underwater inspections—one of a diver's most frequent underwater jobs.

15. Salvage Seamanship: The salvage of a ship or boat is possible only by workers who understand the sea, buoyancy and the structure of vessels. There is a truism in the maritime world that states, "Captain, know your ship." This applies equally, perhaps more so, to salvors. The methods of salvage are as diverse as the sea and as the nature of the

(Continued on Page 160)

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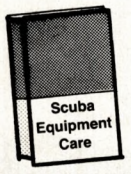
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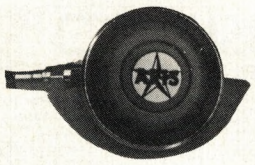
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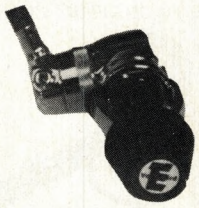
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For more information on the *Vanguard Professional* see January 1987 Skin Diver's review of the *Vanguard* on pages 148 and 149.



Professional Second Stage
Stylish and sleek. Available in a variety of colors, in silicone and rubber. Features a special no-leak exhaust system. Lifetime housing warranty, two years parts and labor.



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Vanguard Professional Silicone regulator. Exhaust deflector and cover available in ice blue, lavender, pink, yellow, or turquoise. Includes Scuba Guard padded carrying case. Retail $360.00
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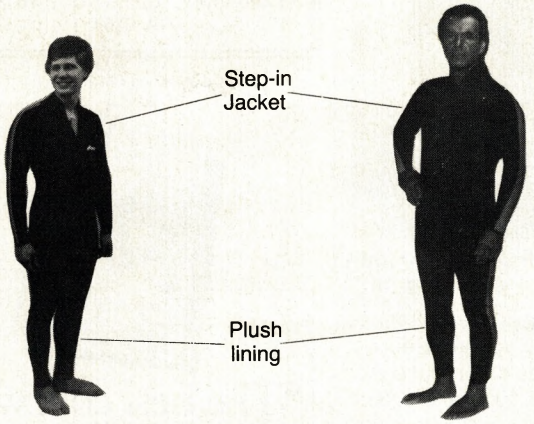
Vanguard Professional regulator with black rubber exhaust deflector and cover. Includes Scuba Guard padded carrying case. Retail $325.00
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Vanguard Professional octopus with 40" hose, yellow silicone cover and exhaust deflector. Retail $175.00
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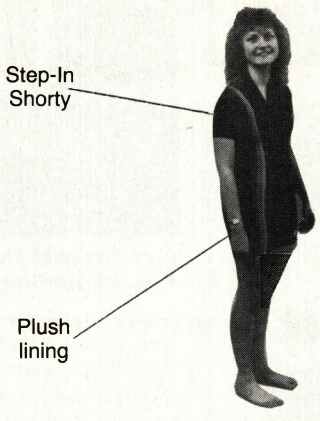
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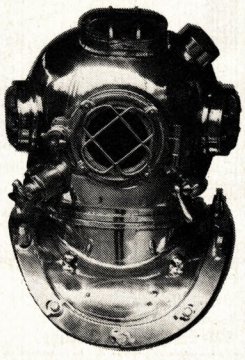
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CDI

(Continued from Page 156)

vessels to be salvaged can be. Students at CDI are provided an opportunity to gain information on ship structure, salvage law, methods of salvage, and to practice diving skills applicable to salvage work.

16. Mixed Gas and Saturation Diving: Each year the work required of a diver goes ever deeper as all phases of underwater work (construction, salvage and offshore oil patch work) are pushed to greater depths. Diving theorists, physiologists and medical personnel have developed diving gas mixtures, procedures and decompression tables to permit divers to safely cope with these increasing depths. CDI students are instructed in the theory, need for and application of mixed gas and saturation diving procedures. This is followed by hands on practice with the equipment needed to make mixed gas and saturation dives; a program that will supply the graduate with important job opportunities.

photo/Leigh Wiener



A commercial diver is dependent on others, beginning with "dressing in."

17. Photography and CCTV: The use of photography and closed circuit television (CCTV) has expanded and is being accepted to the point that it is almost mandatory for divers to be working underwater photographers. Particularly in recent years, CCTV has demonstrated its importance in making real time information available to topside engineers and others interested in the job. Most of the CDI course on this subject is practical application of the equipment to various types of underwater jobs.

18. Bell Diving: The use of a bell in commercial diving may be part of a saturation dive or simply a means of getting someone to a deep, hazardous job with less stress and with better, closer life support available in or at the bell. As with most complex phases of training, CDI programs bell diving predominantly as

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practical training in open water.

19. Offshore Oilfield Diving: There are so many types of offshore oilfield rigs (some for exploration, some for drilling and some for development) that it would be impractical to try to have one of each rig available for class training. At CDI about half the course on offshore systems is classroom work where terminology, methods, equipment, etc., are discussed and illustrated. This is followed by practical jobs simulating work on base plates, blow out preventer (BOP) stacks, the installation of guide wires, risers, clamps and pipelines.

The last two topics listed in the CDI course outline are subjects not necessarily given only in the later part of the course. Rather they are taught, stressed and become part of the daily lives of the students. They are (Section 20) Physical Conditioning and (Section 21) Safety Regulations. In general, there is an inclination by everyone, not just workers in the marine fields, to ignore the importance of these two subjects. To do so in commercial diving is to invite life threatening disaster. The watery world of a diver is unrelenting and unforgiving. Physi-

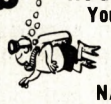
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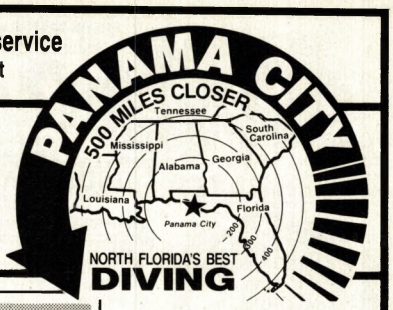
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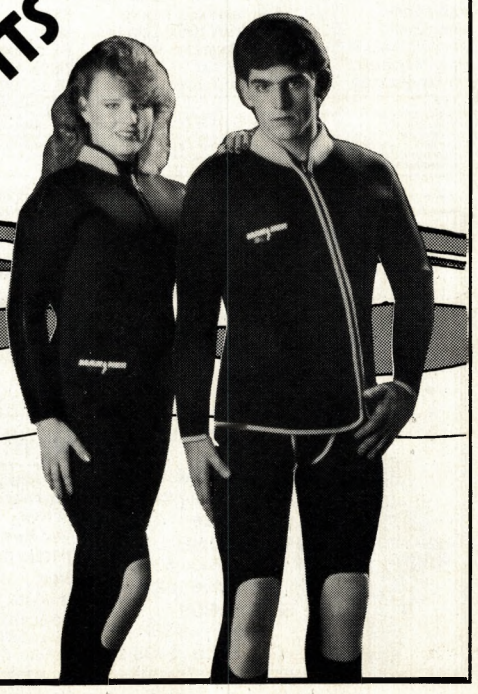
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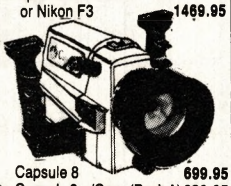
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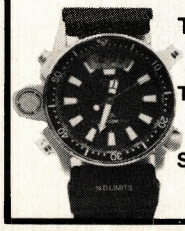
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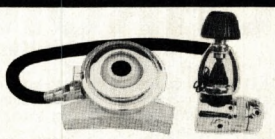
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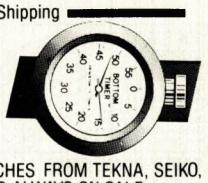
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that these schools are doing a creditable job of producing commercial divers.

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For several years the ultimate goal of commercial divers was offshore oilfields. Many found this to be an exciting and high paying outlet for their skills. Others found employment in the fields of marine construction—building piers, bridges, breakwaters and pipelines. Still others worked in ship salvage; in the construction and maintenance of dams; or inland, in lakes and rivers. Regardless of the field, equipment, tools, materials and



photo/Don English

A diver returns to the ascent line following a lonely work session on the bottom.

techniques will be very similar. Only the application of these to a specific job will have to change.

The scope of training at Commercial Diving Institute will help students enter any of the potentially profitable fields of diving. CDI's "brush up" courses could be invaluable for graduates in keeping up with what is happening in diving technology and in preparing to change fields.

The staff, the experience, the tools and other facilities at the Commercial Diving Institute can provide the technical and practical knowledge a student needs for entry level work in any of the various fields of diving. However, all divers must continue to strive to improve and broaden their knowledge and skills. When this is routinely done, commercial diving can really become exciting and rewarding. CDI can start you toward those goals.

For more information write to Commercial Diving Institute, 151-19 Powells Cove Boulevard, Whitestone, NY 11357. Or, telephone the office at (718) 767-7800. The toll free number, from anywhere in the United States, is (800) 654-3483 or, in New York State, (800) 847-8989.

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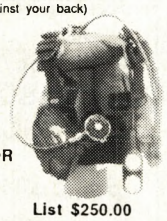
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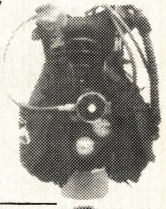
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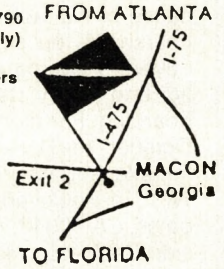
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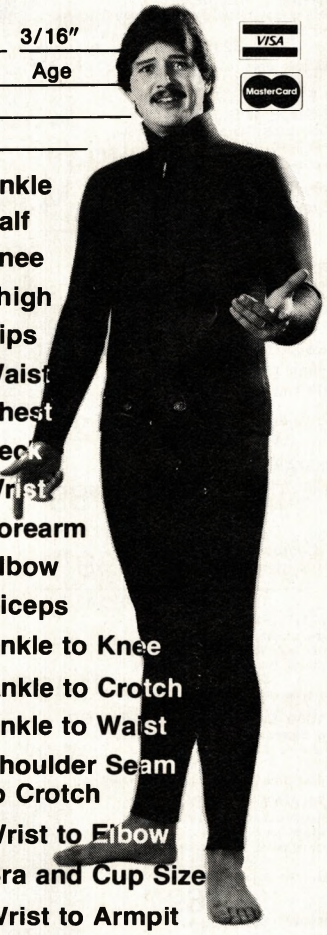
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MCKENNEY COURSES

The technology of video is changing rapidly. Many people are confused by the vast array of video gear available. But, one thing that doesn't change, regardless of what equipment is used, is good production techniques.

Jack McKenney, whose credits include working for Cousteau as a cameraman in the Falkland Islands, sat diving as lead cameraman during Peter Gimbel's *Andrea Doria* expedition, and producing more than 20 of his own films, has acquired a wealth of production experience during his 35 year career. And, now he has designed two video courses. One will be taught in the U.S. It will consist of five days of diving and videotaping, some classroom sessions and at least three sessions in a one-half inch editing bay. All consumer video formats will be covered. Students will leave the course with a 10-15 minute video with a musical background, titles and narration.



The U.S. course will be conducted at the Norine Rouse Scuba Club in West Palm Beach, Florida September 28-October 2. It will include diving, tanks and weightbelts, but does not include travel or accommodations. Accommodations can be arranged through the Norine Rouse Scuba Club. Students must have their own video cameras/recorders and underwater housings, but a few Hypertech video systems are available for rental through the club. The class will be limited to ten people. For more information contact: Norine Rouse Scuba Club, 4708 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33407; (305) 844-2466.

The second course will be conducted aboard the *Fantasea*, a luxurious liveaboard dive boat in the Red Sea. Because of the lack of editing facilities, the course will be conducted as a seminar covering equipment, video techniques, lighting, story development and story boarding. For more information about the October 18-31 Red Sea trip contact: International Diving Expeditions, Inc., 6380 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1715, Los Angeles, CA 90048; (213) 655-5225, or outside California, (800) 544-DIVE.

Professional dive stores and clubs that would like to host a video course can contact Jack McKenney Productions at (213) 663-3486.

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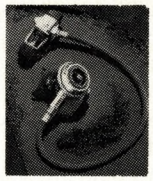
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	List	Our Price
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*NEMROD PRO 300 ADJUSTABLE (balanced)	$289.95	$120.00
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OCTOPUS or BEUCHAT	$99.95	$49.95
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SIERRA SCUBA CONSOLE	$126.50	$95.00
BEUCHAT GUIDE DECOMPRESSION COMPUTER (lifetime warranty)	$450.00	$337.50
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TEKNA COMBO w/compass, dive timer & knife	$299.95	$224.95
TEKNA DIGITEK 11 FUNCTION AUTO DIVE COMPUTER	$424.95	$319.95
TEKNA COMPUTX 15 FUNCTION AUTO DECOMPRESSION COMPUTER	$524.95	$389.95
EDGE DIVING COMPUTER	$599.95	$495.00

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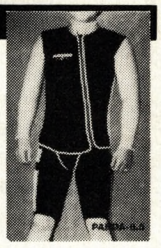
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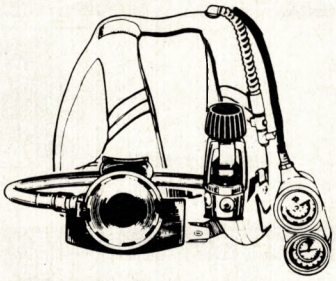
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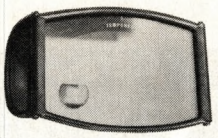
ACHILLES SD-156

(Continued from Page 30)

keel. That's six air chambers for a 15½ foot boat! This sixth air chamber, the keel, has its mixed blessings. On the negative side the V-shaped air keel does not offer quite as sharp an entry at the bow as does a deep-V rigid keel inflatable, so the ride is likely to have more bounce in short, choppy seas and tight turns may result in more sliding. Air keel boats tend to flex a little more than those with hard keels. And, if the air keel is underinflated, the bottom shape will distort when underway and performance will suffer. On the positive side, air keel boats typically: weigh less than hard keel boats of the same length; require a little less maintenance; take up less storage space and set up somewhat more quickly. A distinct advantage of the air keel can be enjoyed by divers who launch their boats from rough beaches or dive around shallow reefs: Because the air keel offers a cushion at point of contact, it is less likely to abrade or tear should the boat's bottom strike rocks or coral.

Sea trials for the SD-156 featured in this article were conducted in open water off the California coast, between Newport and Laguna Beaches. This boat and a companion inflatable were provided by Port-A-Marine Inflatable Boats in Costa Mesa, California. Scott MacIntosh and his staff at Port-A-Marine always do an excellent job of outfitting the boats for this reporter's reviews. Their suggestions and extensive knowledge about inflatables is much appreciated.

Water conditions for the trials were ideal for testing inflatables: There was considerable surface chop to help make the trip exciting. The SD-156 carried three divers and a pile of equipment, including extra tanks. Moving at breakneck speeds across the water, the ride was bouncy. Pushed by a 40 hp engine, this boat is capable of planing quickly and reaching



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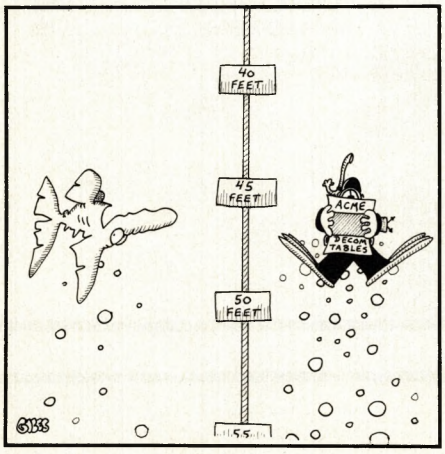
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speeds of about 40 mph. The ride was thrilling, if not a little bone jarring at times. Throttling back the engine would reduce the bouncing, but also some of the fun. The boat tracked well (as well as I could determine under such surface conditions) and handled tight turns easily. On really tight turns, however, cavitation was noticed. Cavitation (air drawn into the water around the prop) is typically caused by kelp caught by the lower unit of the engine; an engine positioned too high on the transom; an incorrect tilt angle for the engine; or an underinflated air keel. We think the third possibility was the cause, since in checking the boat after the trial the engine did appear to be set at the wrong angle. We're not certain when the wrong tilt was set. However, this cavitation was probably owing to the engine setting and not any fault of the boat.

In brief, the sea trial was a lot of fun. The boat performed very well, entries and exits were no problem and the SD-156 provided plenty of room. Even the diving was good. Adding one more diver would not have been much trouble, but more than that might make things a bit crowded on longer trips.

As tested, the SD-156 was equipped with a tiller controlled 40 hp outboard engine. This combination provided plenty of power, speed and fast, tight turns, but at the cost of some operator fatigue and muscle soreness. If prospective inflatable owners want to push their boats with this much horsepower, they might consider remote steering. The additional expense, assembly and disassembly time and loss of a little usable deck space owing to the steering console, will likely be offset by a happier and more relaxed operator—and, perhaps, fewer applications of Ben-Gay!

The Achilles SD-156 appears to be a very good all-around sport boat: well constructed and really versatile. Currently, the suggested retail price for the SD-156 is $3,500, which includes a five year warranty. If you're interested, contact the Achilles dealer in your area for more information and a test ride. You just might fall in love with this Achilles, even though it doesn't seem to have a heel.



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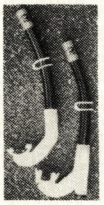
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Prog./Drive-up Airfills/Become CG lic. Capt. &/or Instr. thru us.

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Heated pool, seafood, bar, rooms at low prices.

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8280 State Rd. 84, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324 305/473-9499
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Of Stuart, 1843 S.E. Federal Hwy., FL 33494 305/283-5588
Of W. Palm Bch., 4348 Forest Hill Blvd., FL 33406 305/969-6688

FANTASEA SCUBA HEADQUARTERS 904/837-0732
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PADI 5 Star instructor Development Center, D.V.I. resort, sales & service, gulf charters, instruction, rental, air, travel.

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877 E. Palmetto Pk. Rd., Boca Raton, FL 305/368-0555
2700 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 305/943-3483
2104 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 305/735-6227

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Complete resort dive facility. Cavern instruction.

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America's only country club for divers.
Dive trips six days a week.

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400 yds. to King Spring. Golf, tennis, seafood, bar, 150 rms.

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P.O. Box 516, Crystal River, FL 32629 (FL) 800/443-0875
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A KEY LARGO CONDO Call collect 813/939-3612
Moon Bay deluxe 2 BR, 1½ bath w/dock, sleeps 6. Near Pennekamp, dive centers, marinas and Largo cut. Scuba, snorkel, fishing, skiing, tennis. $495 per wk. Reserve early.

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Rent by weekend, week, or month.

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3/2 w/full kitchen, micro., W&D, color cable TV, stereo, gas grill. Covered fish clean table w/light & water. MUCH MORE!

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Private deep harbor & ramp on Atlantic. A#1 rooms and effs.

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Dv. aboard our 40' 'Scuba Safari' & 34' 'Free 'n Clear'. Full/½ day trips to Alligator Reef, Eagle Wreck & Coral Gardens. Pkgs. avail.

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CAPT. SLATE'S ATLANTIS DIVE CENTER 800/331-DIVE
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Deluxe waterfront efficiences with private sundecks, gazebos, dockage, pool, tennis, bikes. PADI dive shop, dive packages.
PADI dive shop, lessons, 3 boats, groups, spring/fall dive pkgs.

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Disc. room pkg. & grp. rates. Max. 6 divers.
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facility in the Keys–motel/condo diving packages arranged.

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MM 61, Marathon, FL 33050 FL 800/432-2242
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3 bedrooms/2 bath gorgeous, new lushly landscaped private home w/dock. Luxuriously furnished, fantastic rates–less than motel room.

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Instruction, open water check outs, photography. Pkgs. avail.

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Experience Oahu's best sites: 30' custom boat, instructor guides, deluxe equip., onboard meals, hotel pickup, 6 max.

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I Learned About Diving From That

Lost In The Coral Sea

BY MICHELE BINDER HALL

It was December 31, New Year's Eve, and my husband Howard and I were spending the holiday season on a dive trip in the Coral Sea with John and Susan Smith and other friends. It was 6:30 am and, as we had planned the evening before, a group of us were preparing for an early morning dive.

I looked outside and saw the sky was overcast but the sea was calm. The boat's captain confirmed a report that there was a cyclone about 300 miles west of us, on the same latitude, moving southeasterly. Providing that we left soon and didn't stay out too long, he gave us the go-ahead to dive. There were no islands in sight, the coast of Australia being some 70 miles away.

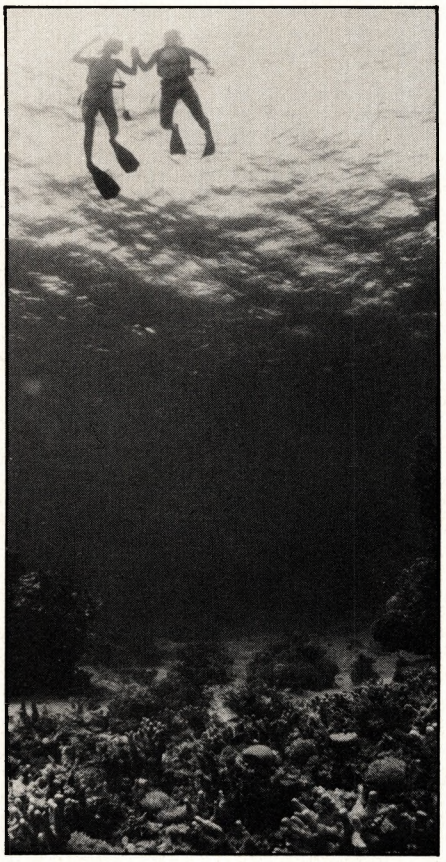
Five of us, Howard, two other passengers and myself, climbed into the dinghy and motored off into the current. All the others on board the larger vessel were sleeping, save Sue's husband, John, and the captain who were standing on deck as we left.

We reached our dive spot and dropped anchor. Howard and I agreed upon which direction we would take to allow the current to help us drift back to the dinghy at the end of the dive. While we were gearing up I commented that we were about one and one-half miles from the larger boat and I'd hate to have to swim back to it. No one was staying topside to watch over the dinghy.

I descended to about 35 feet and worked my way against the current along the reef, taking pictures as I went. Now and again Sue would swim past, and just after I ran out of film I saw Howard swim under and past me. I decided not to descend to see what he was doing. The current was picking up, so with about 1,000 psi I headed back toward the dinghy's anchorage, swimming with the current.

I got back to where the anchor should have been and saw Sue below me, still photographing. I worked my way up, higher and higher on the reef wall, looking around—no anchor. I surfaced to find the wind was blowing about 25 knots, it was raining and the seas were rising threateningly. I made a 360 degree turn, expecting to see the dinghy just behind me as I turned. I thought somehow I'd missed seeing it the first time. When I completed my turn, however, there was still no dinghy in sight! And, I could barely see the larger boat through the driving rain; it looked far away.

Susan surfaced just at that moment. We agreed that with the dinghy gone we had little choice but to swim back toward the big boat. By this time I was becoming a little frightened.



photo/Howard Hall

We descended to the top of the coral reef, about ten feet below the surface. We allowed the current to do most of the work, but we assisted it by pulling ourselves along the coral with our hands. As we swam along I noted my pressure gauge read 700 psi. I kept telling myself to slow down my breathing, relax and let the current do most of the work.

Susan was ahead of me and every so often she turned to see if I was all right; I would nod that I was and we'd go on. Periodically she surfaced to check her bearings and to wave toward the boat in case someone was looking. One of these intervals lasted longer than usual, so I surfaced to hear her yelling fruitlessly, "We're over here!" and waving her arms. Looking toward the boat, I saw the anchor had been pulled and she was moving—away from us! I couldn't believe my eyes. We both began yelling, "Heeeelp!"

By this time it was raining even harder, surface visibility had dropped dramatically and the water was getting very rough. We watched as the big boat continued on its way. Finally, I spotted someone on the port bow and I began waving my arms frantically. To my relief I saw someone waving back. I then realized that two other people were climbing on board, but I couldn't see who. The boat had pulled anchor to pick up other divers and should be coming after us before long. I now knew we'd be okay. I stayed on the surface, buoyed by my BC, swimming along the reef toward the boat.

Finally, the boat turned and approached us. I saw one of the other passengers standing there and she asked if Howard had gone diving. My mind speedily processed the implications of the question: It meant Howard was missing! With surface visibility now less than 100 feet, I wondered how we would ever find him. It was at that point the emotions of the morning caught up with me and I began to get frantic. I remember John throwing Susan and me a line, catching it and being pulled to the stern of the boat. Someone helped us on board. We were all being knocked around quite a bit by the waves. Conditions were rapidly approaching cyclone force.

As I climbed up the ladder to the deck, I heard some of the others saying they could see Howard. Someone helped me get my gear off and the boat was moving again. I looked back toward the swimstep and saw Howard handing up his camera and climbing on board. He had just surfaced, very close to the boat, and hadn't had to wait long before being picked up.

What did I think about as I lay down to go to sleep that New Year's Eve, happy to be safe and in a dry, warm bunk? I resolved never to dive from an unattended boat in an area where there was no land within swimming distance—no matter what exciting subjects might be waiting below to be captured on film. No way!

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